

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Public Service Commission  
Continental Resources, Inc.  
Damage Prevention Enforcement

Public Service Commission, )  
 )  
Complainant, )  
 )  
v. )  
 )  
Continental Resources, Inc., )  
 )  
Respondent. )

Case No. PU-15-699

ANSWER OF RESPONDENT  
CONTINENTAL RESOURCES, INC.

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Respondent, Continental Resources, Inc. (“Continental”), for its answer to the Complaint of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”), states as follows:

1.

Continental denies each and every allegation of the Commission’s Complaint except as herein admitted, qualified, or explained.

2.

Continental admits the allegations contained in Paragraph I of the Commission’s Complaint.

3.

Continental lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph II of the Commission’s Complaint, and therefore, denies the same.

4.

Continental admits that Paragraph III of the Commission’s Complaint quotes in part certain provisions of the North Dakota Century Code and North Dakota Administrative Code.

To the extent Paragraph III contains factual allegations to which a response is required, Continental denies the same.

5.

With respect to the allegations contained in Paragraph IV of the Commission's Complaint, Continental states that the allegations purport to include information as set forth in the ND One-Call Complaint submitted by Keith Ernst with Ernst Trenching, Inc. ("Ernst"), which said document speaks for itself. Except as so stated, Continental lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph IV of the Commission's Complaint, and therefore, denies the same.

6.

With respect to the allegations contained in Paragraph V of the Commission's Complaint, Continental admits only that Commission records reflect issuance of a letter notifying Continental of the complaint filed by Ernst and requesting a response. Continental further states that said letter notification was not served upon Continental's North Dakota Registered Agent, and no formal response has been filed with the Commission. Except as so stated, Continental lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph V of the Commission's Complaint, and therefore, denies the same.

7.

With respect to the allegations contained in Paragraph VI of the Commission's Complaint, Continental states that the allegations purport to include information as set forth in the complaint of Ernst, which said document speaks for itself. Continental further states that it lacks knowledge or information regarding the investigation of Commission staff, and therefore, denies the same. Except as so stated, Continental lacks knowledge or information sufficient to

form a belief about the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph VI of the Commission's Complaint, and therefore, denies the same.

8.

Paragraph VII of the Commission's Complaint contains a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent Paragraph VII contains factual allegations to which a response is required, Continental denies the same.

9.

Continental admits only that Paragraph VIII of the Commission's Complaint quotes in part a portion of the Commission's Damage Prevention Plan. To the extent Paragraph VIII contains factual allegations to which a response is required, Continental denies the same.

10.

Continental admits that Paragraph IX of the Commission's Complaint sets forth the requirements by which Continental must respond to the Complaint of the Commission and service of the same must be effectuated under the North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure. To the extent Paragraph IX contains factual allegations to which a response is required, Continental denies the same.

11.

Continental specifically denies each allegation, claim, prayer, and demand in the Commission's prayer for relief.

### **DEFENSES**

12.

As a defense, Continental alleges that the Commission's Complaint fails to state a cause of action upon which relief can be granted.

13.

As a defense, Continental reserves, pending discovery, all defenses provided by the North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure and the North Dakota Administrative Practices Act.

**REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Continental requests the following relief:

- a. The Commission's Complaint be in all things dismissed; and
- b. Such further and additional relief as justice may require.

**DATED** this 5th day of July, 2016.

FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.

By 

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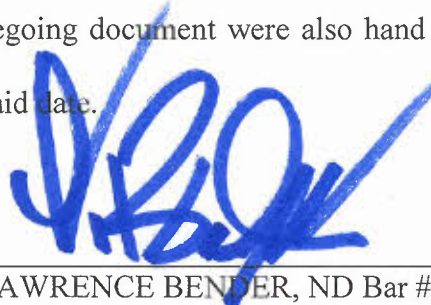
**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that on July 5, 2016, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served via electronic mail on the following:

John M. Schuh  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505  
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Victor Schock  
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An original and ten (10) copies of the foregoing document were also hand delivered to the North Dakota Public Service Commission on said date.



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