Case 4:21-cv-02045 Document 220 Filed on 10/29/24 in TXSD Page 1 of 5

United States District Court Southern District of Texas

> **ENTERED** October 30, 2024 Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HOUSTON DIVISION

DELAWARE COUNTY EMPLOYEES § RETIREMENT SYSTEM, Individually and on § Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated, §

Civil Action No. 4:21-cv-02045

CLASS ACTION

Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated, Plaintiff, vs. CABOT OIL & GAS CORPORATION, et al., Defendants. §

ORDER AWARÐING ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES AND AWARDS TO PLAINTIFFS PURSUANT TO 15 U.S.C. §78U-4(A)(4)

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Case 4:21-cv-02045 Document 220 Filed on 10/29/24 in TXSD Page 2 of 5

This matter is before the Court on Class Counsel's motion for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses. The Court having considered all matters submitted to it; and it appearing that notice substantially in the form approved by the Court, which advised of Class Counsel's request for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses, was disseminated to all Class Members who or which could be identified with reasonable effort, and that a summary notice substantially in the form approved by the Court was published in *The Wall Street Journal* and transmitted over *PR Newswire* pursuant to the specifications of the Court; and the Court having considered and determined the fairness and reasonableness of the attorneys' fees and expenses requested,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

1. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the Stipulation of Settlement dated June 3, 2024 (ECF 207-2) ("Stipulation"), and all capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the same meanings as set forth in the Stipulation.

2. The Court has jurisdiction to enter this Order and over the subject matter of the Litigation and all parties to the Litigation, including all Members of the Class.

3. Notice of Class Counsel's motion for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses was given to all Class Members who or which could be identified with reasonable effort. The form and method of notifying the Class of the motion for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses satisfied the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the United States Constitution (including the Due Process Clause), the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, 15 U.S.C. §78u-4, as amended, and all other applicable law and rules, constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constituted due and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled thereto.

4. Class Counsel are hereby awarded attorneys' fees in the amount of 30% of the Settlement Fund and \$1,515,974.05 in payment of Plaintiffs' Counsel's litigation expenses plus

- 1 -

Case 4:21-cv-02045 Document 220 Filed on 10/29/24 in TXSD Page 3 of 5

interest (which fees and expenses shall be paid from the Settlement Fund), which sums the Court finds to be fair and reasonable. Class Counsel shall allocate the attorneys' fees awarded among Plaintiffs' Counsel in a manner which they, in good faith, believe reflects the contributions of such counsel to the institution, prosecution, and settlement of the Litigation.

5. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the awarded attorneys' fees and interest earned thereon shall be paid to Class Counsel from the Settlement Fund immediately upon entry of the Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal with Prejudice and this Order. The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of the fee award and interest earned thereon shall be paid to Class Counsel from the Settlement Fund after the initial distribution of the Net Settlement Fund to Authorized Claimants.

6. In making this award of attorneys' fees and payment of expenses from the Settlement Fund, the Court has considered and found that:

A. The Settlement has created a fund of \$40,000,000 in cash that has been funded into escrow pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation, and that numerous Class Members who submit acceptable Claims will benefit from the Settlement that occurred because of the efforts of Plaintiffs' Counsel;

B. The fee sought has been reviewed and approved as reasonable by Plaintiffs, sophisticated investors that actively supervised the Litigation;

C. Over 200,000 notices were mailed/emailed to potential Class Members and Nominees stating that Class Counsel would apply for an award of attorneys' fees in an amount not to exceed 33-1/3% of the Settlement Fund and for payment of expenses in an

Case 4:21-cv-02045 Document 220 Filed on 10/29/24 in TXSD Page 4 of 5

amount not to exceed \$1,750,000, and there have been no objections to the requested attorneys' fees and expenses;

D. Plaintiffs' Counsel conducted the Litigation and achieved the Settlement with skill, perseverance, and diligent advocacy;

E. The Litigation raised a number of complex issues;

F. Had Class Counsel not achieved the Settlement there would remain a significant risk that Plaintiffs and the other Members of the Class may have recovered less or nothing from Defendants;

G. Plaintiffs' Counsel devoted 31,806 hours, with a lodestar value of \$18,607,588.00, to achieve the Settlement; and

H. The amount of attorneys' fees awarded and expenses to be paid from the Settlement Fund are fair and reasonable and consistent with awards in similar cases.

7. Plaintiff and Court-appointed Class Representative Delaware County Employees Retirement System is hereby awarded \$6,500.00 as reimbursement for its reasonable costs and expenses directly related to its representation of the Class in the Litigation.

8. Plaintiff and Court-appointed Class Representative Iron Workers District Council (Philadelphia and Vicinity) Retirement and Pension Plan is hereby awarded \$5,954.32 as reimbursement for its reasonable costs and expenses directly related to its representation of the Class in the Litigation.

9. Any appeal or any challenge affecting this Court's approval regarding any attorneys' fees and expense application shall in no way disturb or affect the finality of the Judgment.

- 3 -

10. In the event that the Settlement is terminated or the Effective Date of the Settlement otherwise fails to occur, this Order shall be rendered null and void to the extent provided by the Stipulation.

11. There is no just reason for delay in the entry of this Order, and immediate entry by the Clerk of the Court is expressly directed.

IT IS SO ORDERED. DATED: Ocholar 29 2024

THE HONORABLE LEE H. ROSENTHAL UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE