

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION,**

Plaintiff,

-against-

**SAEXPLORATION HOLDINGS, INC.,
JEFFREY H. HASTINGS,
BRENT N. WHITELEY,
BRIAN A. BEATTY, and
MICHAEL J. SCOTT,**

Defendants, and

**THOMAS W. O'NEILL and
LORI E. HASTINGS,**

Relief Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:20-CV-8423 (PGG)

FINAL JUDGMENT AS TO DEFENDANT BRENT N. WHITELEY

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) having filed a Complaint and Defendant Brent N. Whiteley (“Defendant”) having entered a general appearance; consented to the Court’s jurisdiction over Defendant and the subject matter of this action; consented to entry of this Final Judgment; waived findings of fact and conclusions of law; and waived any right to appeal from this Final Judgment:

I.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating, directly or indirectly, Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5], by using any means or instrumentality of

interstate commerce, or of the mails, or of any facility of any national securities exchange, in connection with the purchase or sale of any security:

- (a) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;
- (b) to make any untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or
- (c) to engage in any act, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

II.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act") [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)] in the offer or sale of any security by the use of any means or instruments of transportation or communication in interstate commerce or by use of the mails, directly or indirectly:

- (a) to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;
- (b) to obtain money or property by means of any untrue statement of a material fact or any omission of a material fact necessary in order to make the statements

made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading;

or

- (c) to engage in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

III.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from, directly or indirectly, violating Section 13(b)(5) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(5)] by knowingly circumventing or knowingly failing to implement a system of internal accounting controls or knowingly falsifying any book, record, or account described in Paragraph 2 of Section 13(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)].

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

IV.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from, directly or indirectly, violating Exchange Act Rule

13b2-1 [17 C.F.R. § 240.13b2-1] by falsifying or causing to be falsified, any book, record or account subject to Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(A)].

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

V.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from, directly or indirectly, violating Exchange Act Rule 13b2-2 [17 C.F.R. § 240.13b2-2] by, as an officer or director of an issuer,

- (a) making or causing to be made a materially false or misleading statement, or omitting to state or causing another person to omit to state, any material fact necessary in order to make statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading, to an accountant in connection with: (i) any audit, review, or examination of the financial statements of an issuer, or (ii) the preparation or filing of any document or report required to be filed with the Commission; or
- (b) taking any action, or directing another person to take action, to coerce, manipulate, mislead, or fraudulently influence any independent public or certified public accountant engaged in the performance of an audit or review of an issuer's financial statements required to be filed with the Commission, while knowing or

while it should have been known that such action, if successful, could result in rendering the issuer's financial statements materially misleading.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

VI.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from, directly or indirectly, violating Exchange Act Rule 13a-14 [17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-14] by, as a principal executive or principal financial officer of an issuer, or as a person performing similar functions, falsely certifying any report filed under Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78m(a)] (other than a report filed by an Asset-Backed Issuer defined in 17 C.F.R. § 229.1101, or a report on Form 20-F under 17 C.F.R. § 240.13a-19), including reports filed on Forms 10-Q, Forms 10-QSB, Forms 10-K, or Forms 10-KSB.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

VII.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from aiding and abetting any violation of Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78m(a)] and Rules 12b-20, 13a-1, 13a-11, and 13a-13 thereunder [17 C.F.R. §§ 240.12b-20, 240.13a-1, 240.13a-11, and 240.13a-13] by knowingly or recklessly providing substantial assistance to an issuer that files with the Commission any information, document, or report required to be filed with the Commission pursuant to Exchange Act Section 13(a) and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, which contains any untrue statement of a material fact, which omits to state any material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, or which omits to disclose any information required to be disclosed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

VIII.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from aiding and abetting any violation of Section 13(b)(2)(A) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(A)] by knowingly or recklessly providing substantial assistance to an issuer that fails to make and keep books, records, and accounts which, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and disposition of its assets.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

IX.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from aiding and abetting any violation of Section 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78m(b)(2)(B)] by knowingly or recklessly providing substantial assistance to an issuer that fails to devise and maintain a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to reasonably assure that transactions are recorded and financial statements are prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, as provided in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(d)(2), the foregoing paragraph also binds the following who receive actual notice of this Final Judgment by personal service or otherwise: (a) Defendant's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys; and (b) other persons in active concert or participation with Defendant or with anyone described in (a).

X.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, pursuant to Section 21(d)(2) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)(2)] and Section 20(e) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(e)], Defendant is prohibited from acting as an officer or director of any issuer that has a class of securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78l] or that is required to file reports pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78o(d)].

XI.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is liable for disgorgement of \$7,054,221, representing net profits gained as a result of the conduct alleged in the Complaint, together with prejudgment interest thereon of \$1,039,382, for a total of \$8,093,603.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant's obligation to pay this amount shall be deemed satisfied by the entry of the restitution order in the Judgment entered against Defendant in *United States v. Whiteley*, Crim. No. 1:20-cr-534 (S.D.N.Y.) on February 20, 2024 [ECF No. 206].

XII.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant shall reimburse SAExploration Holdings, Inc., pursuant to Section 304(a) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 15 § U.S.C. 7243(a), in the amount of \$1,114,303. Defendant shall make these payments to SAExploration Holdings, Inc., and upon making each payment Defendant shall promptly inform the Commission's counsel in this action, or shall cause the Commission's counsel promptly to be informed, in writing: (i) that the payment was made, (ii) the date the payment was made, and (iii) the amount of the payment. By making these payments, Defendant relinquishes all legal and equitable right, title, and interest in such funds, and no part of the funds shall be returned to Defendant.

XIII.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant is permanently restrained and enjoined from violating, directly or indirectly, Section 304(a) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ("SOX") [15 U.S.C. § 7243(a)] by failing to reimburse an issuer

for any bonus or other incentive-based compensation and any profits realized from the sale of the issuer's securities during the 12-month period following the first public issuance or filing with the Commission of any financial document, for which an issuer is required to prepare an accounting restatement due to the material noncompliance of the issuer, as a result of misconduct, with any financial reporting requirement under the securities laws.

XIV.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that based on Defendant's cooperation in a Commission investigation and related enforcement action, the Court is not ordering Defendant to pay a civil penalty. If at any time following the entry of the Final Judgment the Commission obtains information indicating that Defendant knowingly provided materially false or misleading information or materials to the Commission or in a related proceeding, the Commission may, at its sole discretion and without prior notice to the Defendant, petition the Court for an order requiring Defendant to pay a civil penalty. In connection with any such petition and at any hearing held on such a motion: (a) Defendant will be precluded from arguing that he did not violate the federal securities laws as alleged in the Complaint; (b) Defendant may not challenge the validity of this Judgment, the Consent, or any related Undertakings; (c) the allegations of the Complaint, solely for the purposes of such motion, shall be accepted as and deemed true by the Court; and (d) the Court may determine the issues raised in the motion on the basis of affidavits, declarations, excerpts of sworn deposition or investigative testimony, and documentary evidence without regard to the standards for summary judgment contained in Rule 56(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Under these circumstances, the parties may take discovery, including discovery from appropriate non-parties.

XV.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the Consent is incorporated herein with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein, and that Defendant shall comply with all of the undertakings and agreements set forth therein.

XVI.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that, for purposes of exceptions to discharge set forth in Section 523 of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523, the allegations in the Complaint are true and admitted by Defendant, and further, any debt for disgorgement, prejudgment interest, civil penalty or other amounts due by Defendant under this Final Judgment or any other judgment, order, consent order, decree or settlement agreement entered in connection with this proceeding, is a debt for the violation by Defendant of the federal securities laws or any regulation or order issued under such laws, as set forth in Section 523(a)(19) of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(19).


XVII.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter for the purposes of enforcing the terms of this Final Judgment.

XVIII.

There being no just reason for delay, pursuant to Rule 54(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Clerk is ordered to enter this Final Judgment forthwith and without further notice.

Dated: August 14, 2024



PAUL G. GARDEPHE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE