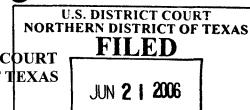
Case 3:06-cv-01097-M Document 1 Filed 06/21/06



CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

VS.

SUNRAY OIL COMPANY, INC., ABILENE OIL AND GAS, L.P., and LARRY STILES,

Defendants, and

J&L DRILLING COMPANY, L.L.C.,

Relief Defendant.

3-06 CV 1097-R

Deputy

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Securities and Exchange Commission files this suit against Sunray Oil Company, Inc., Abilene Oil and Gas, L.P., and Larry Stiles (collectively, "Defendants"); and J&L Drilling Company, L.L.C. ("Relief Defendant"), and alleges as follows:

SUMMARY

- 1. Defendants have conducted an unregistered and fraudulent sale of oil and gas investments, raising approximately \$1.14 million from at least 52 investors residing in ten states and Canada. Defendant Larry Stiles controlled all of the corporate entities named by the Commission in this case.
- 2. Defendants' offering, the Abilene Oil and Gas, L.P. (the "Abilene Offering") was structured as a limited partnership; starting in January 2005, Defendants sold securities, or limited partnership interests in the Abilene Offering, which was to acquire, explore and develop oil and gas properties in Texas.

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3. Defendants, through Sunray's website and other promotional materials, made

numerous material representations to investors, and failed to tell investors material information.

Most significantly, the investors were misled regarding the handling and use of their money. For

example, they were not told that Defendant Stiles planned to divert substantial amounts of

investor funds for his personal use. Defendants also failed to disclose to investors that the

Pennsylvania Securities Commission had issued a cease-and-desist order finding that Stiles and

Sunray had committed violations of Pennsylvania's securities laws in connection with the

Abilene Offering, and that the Railroad Commission of Texas ("RRCT") had levied over

\$700,000 in unpaid penalties and reimbursement costs against Defendant Stiles' prior oil and gas

company that filed for bankruptcy.

4.

4. The Commission, in the interest of protecting the public from further fraudulent

activities, brings this action seeking an order enjoining preliminarily and permanently the

Defendants from further violations of Sections 5(a), 5(b) and 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933

[15 U.S.C. §§ 77e(a), 77e(c) and 77q(a)] ("Securities Act") and Section 10(b) of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934 [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] ("Exchange Act"), and Rule 10b-5 thereunder [17

C.F.R. § 240.10b-5]. The Commission also seeks orders requiring the Defendants Sunray and

Stiles to disgorge all ill-gotten gains, plus prejudgment interest thereon, and to pay civil

monetary penalties.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Section 22(a) of the

Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77v(a)] and Section 27 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78aa].

Defendants have, directly and indirectly, made use of the means or instrumentalities of interstate

commerce and/or the mails in connection with the transactions described in this Complaint.

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6. Venue lies in this Court pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C.

§ 77v(a)] and Section 27 of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78aa], because certain of the acts and

transactions described herein took place in the Northern District of Texas.

DEFENDANTS

7. Sunray Oil Company, Inc., an Oklahoma corporation, has offices in Addison,

Texas, and is the general partner of Abilene Oil and Gas, L.P. While its website claims a 50 year

history in the oil and gas industry, its corporate existence dates only to January 2000. The

records of the RRCT, which regulates oil and gas drilling and field operations in Texas, do not

show that Sunray operates any oil and gas leases or wells in Texas.

8. Abilene Oil and Gas, L.P., is a limited partnership registered with the State of

Texas on May 31, 2006. Sunray is the general partner of the partnership.

9. Larry Stiles, age 56, controls all of Sunray's business affairs, including its

securities offerings and the disbursement of funds. Prior to forming Sunray in 2000, Stiles ran an

oil and gas company named Ginco Operating Company, which was dissolved in bankruptcy

proceedings in 1999. Over \$1 million in unpaid penalties and reimbursement costs have been

levied against Ginco for its failure to plug abandoned wells operated in Texas.

RELIEF DEFENDANT

10. **J&L Drilling Company, L.L.C.** ("J&L Drilling"), is a Texas limited liability

company formed in February 2005. J&L Drilling is purportedly a wholly-owned subsidiary of

Sunray, and its only known asset is a drilling rig purchased with funds from the Abilene Offering

and funds obtained from a prime bank scheme the Commission recently halted in SEC v. EFS,

LLC, et al, Civil Action No. 3-06CV0793-M, N.D. Tex., (May 5, 2006)(Hon. Judge Barbara

Lynn). EFS, L.L.C., is a Texas limited liability corporation formed by James N. Pratt, age 65, of

Carrolton, Texas. Approximately \$2.5 million was raised by the EFS defendants, of which approximately \$800,000 was transferred to Sunray. EFS and Pratt shared offices with Sunray. Further, Pratt is listed as the President of Sunray in the Abilene Offering sales materials. J&L Drilling is named as a Relief Defendant solely for the purpose of obtaining equitable relief.

FACTS

- 11. Sunray began the Abilene Offering in January 2005, soliciting investors through its website, www.sunrayinvestment.com, which invited investors to "make a fortune" by participating in Sunray's "proven" oil wells. The website, by its very nature, solicited investors across the United States and in foreign countries.
- 12. Stiles and Sunray commingled the Abilene Offering proceeds with funds obtained from EFS and other investors, and used approximately \$500,000 to purchase oil and gas leases in Taylor County, Texas, and to drill three wells on the properties. The first well, which was drilled in April 2005, was a dry hole. Sunray drilled the second well in February 2006, which produced several hundred barrels of oil prior to May 19, 2006. This well is currently producing 30 barrels a day. The third well is awaiting completion.
- 13. Although investor money was used to acquire the leases and drill three wells, Sunray and Stiles have never assigned any interest in the Taylor County leases to the Abilene Partnership which, as noted, was not formed until May 31, 2006. Instead, almost the entire working interest in the Taylor County properties has been acquired in the name of Sunray. As a result, the Abilene partnership does not have legal title to the properties that have been purchased and developed with partnership (and EFS) funds. Moreover, while the ownership interest in these properties remains in Sunray's name, the properties are subject to the claims of Sunray's and Stiles' creditors.

- 14. The Abilene Offering Private Placement Memorandum ("PPM") contained, among other things, the following terms:
 - 100 limited partnership units were offered at \$18,000 per unit for a total offering of \$1,800,000;
 - The offering purportedly qualified as exempt from registration under Rule 506 of Regulation D;
 - The offering was limited to accredited investors and up to 35 non-accredited investors;
 - The partnership intended to acquire, develop, drill and promote oil and gas properties in Taylor County, Texas (near Abilene, Texas);
 - The initial cost per partnership unit included the drilling and completion costs for two exploratory wells in Taylor County;
 - Sunray, the general partner, and specifically not the limited partners, would have full, exclusive and complete discretion to control the day-to-day activities and operations of the Abilene partnership;
 - Partnership units were offered on a "best efforts, no minimum" basis and the general partner planned to use proceeds as they were received without establishing a minimum level of subscriptions;
 - The general partner would receive 9% of the offering proceeds for a one time management fee and would be reimbursed for any and all costs and expenses incurred on behalf of the limited partnership;
 - The limited partnership would receive a 95% undivided working interest in the partnership oil and gas leases and would be entitled to 71.25 % of the oil and gas revenue generated by the partnership oil and gas properties, while the general partner would receive 3.75% of the revenue;
 - Limited partners could pay an additional \$100 for a "repurchase agreement," by which Sunray would repurchase partnership interests for 150% of the original investment cost, pursuant to an option exercisable five years from the execution of the repurchase agreement; and
 - Sunray would fund the repurchase agreement using Abilene Partnership proceeds to purchase an A-rated "Insurance Guarantee Bond" or a financial instrument "from one of the top twenty European Banks."

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MISREPRESENTATIONS AND OMISSIONS

15. The Abilene Offering PPM and Sunray's website contained numerous material

misrepresentations and omissions. Sunray's website, for example, falsely proclaimed: "We have

over 50 years experience as an independent US Oil Producer . . . " Additionally, the website

characterized Sunray as "One of the Most Successful Oil & Gas Drilling Programs in the United

States Today!" Further, it announced that "This Program is so Successful it Offers Investors a

150% Repurchase Agreement on Their Investment!" All of these statements are false and

misleading. Neither the website nor the PPM contained any disclosure about Sunray's prior

operating history, including the number of wells drilled and completed. Moreover, Sunray

drilled its first well in April 2005, and that well was a "dry hole."

16. The Abilene partnership agreement represented that "all monies received by the

limited partnership from the limited partners shall be deposited in a limited partnership account

or accounts which shall be maintained in the name of and for the benefit of the limited

partnership." In addition, the agreement specifically provided that "limited partnership funds

may be commingled with other limited partnership funds, but not with separate funds of the

General Partner." (emphasis added) In fact, Sunray never set up a partnership bank account and

all partnership subscription funds were deposited directly into Sunray's operating bank account,

the same account into which the funds from EFS were deposited.

17. Records obtained from Sunray reflect that Stiles has used the operating account as

his personal bank account, spending investor funds to cover personal expenses, including

\$57,500 toward the purchase of automobiles, \$24,900 in payments on Stiles' personal residence,

\$13,600 for landscaping, \$29,400 for personal furniture, \$19,600 on clothing and jewelry, and at

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least \$6,500 to Stiles' personal brokerage account. Additionally, Stiles received \$72,000 in

salary payments since July 15, 2005. The current balance in Sunray's account is \$2,000.

18. Furthermore, at least \$200,000 from the account was used to acquire an oil and

gas drilling rig operated through a purported Sunray subsidiary, Relief Defendant, J & L

Drilling, LLC ("J&L Drilling"), an entity in which the Abilene investors had no legal or

beneficial interest.

19. The Abilene PPM contained no financial information concerning Sunray,

including the fact that between January 2005 and April 2006, it had purportedly "borrowed" over

\$800,000 from EFS and had secured the loan by agreeing to assign a 50% interest in all oil and

gas interests acquired by Sunray over at least a four-year period beginning January 1, 2005. The

failure to disclose Sunray's financial condition was material with respect to whether Sunray

could, or would, honor its agreement to repurchase an investor's partnership interest for 150% of

the original investment cost after five years.

20. Sunray represented in the PPM that it would fund the repurchase agreement by a

segregated account used to purchase an insurance guarantee bond from an "A rated" insurance

company, or a "Financial Instrument from one of the top twenty European Banks." The identity

of the insurance company and the European banks was not disclosed, and Sunray's bank records

reflect that no segregated account was established or that any insurance bond or other financial

instrument was purchased to fund the repurchase option.

21. The Defendants never disclosed to investors the existence of the RRCT orders

entered against Ginco, Stiles' prior oil and gas company. Nor did they disclose to investors that

on September 7, 2005, the Pennsylvania Securities Commission ("PSC") issued a summary cease

and desist order alleging securities violations by Sunray and Stiles in connection with the

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Abilene Offering. Despite the entry of PSC order, Defendants continued to solicit investors and

failed to inform prospective investors of the existence of the PSC Order or its findings.

22. In March 2006, Sunray began a second limited partnership offering called the

Waggoner Estate Project, L.P. ("Waggoner Offering") to acquire and develop oil and gas

properties in Wichita County, Texas. As of May 26, 2006, the offering had raised approximately

\$1.07 million from approximately 16 investors. Pursuant to instructions from Sunray's counsel,

retained after the Commission began its investigation, certain funds raised in the Waggoner

Offering were returned to investors. Sunray, however, did not have sufficient resources to fully

refund all of the investors.

23. To cover the recission check issued to the Waggoner investors, Sunray used

\$250,000 that it obtained from Indocan Resources, Inc. ("Indocan"), a publicly-held Canadian oil

and gas company, for the sale of a 15% working interest in the Abilene project (exclusive of the

producing well).. Indocan purchased its interest in the Taylor County leases, which were

acquired with investor funds obtained from the Abilene Offering and EFS investors, directly

from Sunray rather than purchasing units in the Abilene limited partnership. According to the

PPM, the Abilene partnership was to own 95% of the working interest in the Taylor County

leases. The sales contract between Indocan and Sunray required Sunray to drill and complete

two wells on the property. Instead, Sunray used these funds to cover checks written to two

Waggoner Estate offering investors for the return of their investment. Further, the Abilene

investors were never told that Sunray could, or would, continue to sell interests in the Abilene

partnership (or an interest in the properties purportedly owned by the partnership) after the

drilling and completion of a successful well on the partnership property. This action defrauded

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those limited partners who put up the funds and assumed the risks in acquiring the Taylor county leases and drilling the first two wells on the property.

FIRST CLAIM Violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act

- 24. Plaintiff Commission repeats and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 23 of this Complaint by reference as if set forth *verbatim*.
- 25. The Defendants, directly or indirectly, singly or in concert with others, in connection with the offer or sale of securities, by use of the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce and by use of the mails have: (a) employed devices, schemes and artifices to defraud; (b) made untrue statements of material facts and omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and (c) engaged in acts, practices and courses of business which operate as a fraud and deceit upon purchasers, prospective purchasers and other persons.
- 26. As a part of and in furtherance of their scheme, the Defendants, directly and indirectly, prepared, disseminated or used contracts, written offering documents, promotional materials, investor and other correspondence, and oral presentations, which contained untrue statements of material facts and misrepresentations of material facts, and which omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, including, but not limited to, those set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 23 above.
- With respect to violations of Section 17(a)(1) of the Securities Act, the 27. Defendants made the above-referenced misrepresentations and omissions knowingly or with severe recklessness regarding the truth. With respect to violations of Sections 17(a)(2) and (3) of

SEC v. Sunray Oil Company, Inc., et al. **COMPLAINT**

the Securities Act, the Defendants were negligent in their actions regarding the representations and omissions alleged herein.

28. By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have violated and, unless enjoined, will continue to violate Section 17(a) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77q(a)].

SECOND CLAIM Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5

- Plaintiff Commission repeats and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 23 of this 29. Complaint by reference as if set forth verbatim.
- The Defendants, directly or indirectly, singly or in concert with others, in 30. connection with the purchase or sale of securities, by use of the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce and by use of the mails have: (a) employed devices, schemes and artifices to defraud; (b) made untrue statements of material facts and omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and (c) engaged in acts, practices and courses of business which operate as a fraud and deceit upon purchasers, prospective purchasers and other persons.
- As a part of and in furtherance of their scheme, the Defendants, directly and 31. indirectly, prepared, disseminated or used contracts, written offering documents, promotional materials, investor and other correspondence, and oral presentations, which contained untrue statements of material facts and misrepresentations of material facts, and which omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, including, but not limited to, those set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 23 above.
- The Defendants made the above-referenced misrepresentations and omissions 32. knowingly or with severe recklessness regarding the truth.

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33. By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants violated and, unless enjoined, will continue to violate Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78j(b)] and Rule 10b-5 thereunder [17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5].

THIRD CLAIM Violations of Section 5(a) and 5(c) of the Securities Act

- 34. Plaintiff Commission repeats and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 23 of this Complaint by reference as if set forth *verbatim*.
- 35. Defendants, directly or indirectly, singly and in concert with others, have been offering to sell, selling and delivering after sale, certain securities, and have been, directly and indirectly: (a) making use of the means and instruments of transportation and communication in interstate commerce and of the mails to sell securities, through the use of written contracts, offering documents and otherwise; (b) carrying and causing to be carried through the mails and in interstate commerce by the means and instruments of transportation, such securities for the purpose of sale and for delivery after sale; and (c) making use of the means or instruments of transportation and communication in interstate commerce and of the mails to offer to sell such securities.
- 36. As alleged in paragraphs 1 through 23, the investments described in detail herein, have been offered and sold to the public through a general solicitation of investors. No registration statements were ever filed with the Commission or otherwise in effect with respect to these securities.
- 37. By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants have violated and, unless enjoined, will continue to violate Sections 5(a) and 5(c) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. §§ 77e(a) and 77e(c)].

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FOURTH CLAIM Claim Against Relief Defendant as Custodian of Investor Funds

- Plaintiff Commission repeats and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 23 of this 38. Complaint by reference as if set forth *verbatim*.
- 39. Relief Defendant received funds and property from one or more of the Defendants, which are the proceeds, or are traceable to the proceeds, of the unlawful activities of Defendants, as alleged in paragraphs 1 through 23 above.
- 40. Relief Defendant obtained the funds and property alleged above as part of and in furtherance of the securities violations alleged in paragraphs 1 through 23 and under circumstances in which it is not just, equitable or conscionable for it to retain the funds and property. As a consequence, Relief Defendant was unjustly enriched.

RELIEF REQUESTED

- Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court: 41.
- Enter emergency orders freezing the assets of Defendants and the Relief (a) Defendant and appoint a receiver over these entities to take possession of the assets of each for the protection of investors.
- (b) Preliminarily and permanently enjoin all Defendants from violating Sections 5(a), 5(c) and 17(a) of the Securities Act and Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, and Rule 10b-5 thereunder.
- Order Defendants Sunray and Stiles to disgorge an amount equal to the (c) funds and benefits they obtained illegally as a result of the violations alleged herein, plus

prejudgment interest on that amount, and order the Relief Defendant to disgorge all assets in its possession traceable to investor funds it received from the Defendants.

- (d) Order civil penalties against Defendant Sunray and Stiles pursuant to Section 20(d) of the Securities Act [15 U.S.C. § 77t(d)], and Section 21(d) of the Exchange Act [15 U.S.C. § 78u(d)], for the violations alleged herein.
 - Such further relief as this Court may deem just and proper. (e)

Respectfully submitted,

Oklahoma Bar No. 5102 **SECURITIES & EXCHANGE**

COMMISSION

801 Cherry Street, Suite 1900 Fort Worth, Texas 76102

(817) 978-6490

FAX: (817) 978-4927

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The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpo of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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II. RELATED CASE(S) (See Instructions):					
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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY APPLYING IFP JUDGE Receipt #_ MAG JUDGE