Thunder Exploration, Inc.: From Inception to Self-Sustaining E&P Company in Forty-Two Years

Walter S. Light, Jr.¹

¹Thunder Exploration, Inc

Abstract

Mr. Light, an exploration geologist, with over forty-five years' experience, will share his career/corporate timeline along with the challenges he has experienced, and techniques used in building Thunder Exploration, Inc. This is a story of personal perseverance, entrepreneurial spirit, and a passion for exploration geology. The integration of these God-given talents with self-taught business skills are all key components in building Thunder Exploration, Inc. As prospects were assembled and presented, numerous professional/business mentors and prospect reviewers were also important in the growth of Thunder and Mr. Light's career, illuminating the path forward by asking critical questions, sharing experiences, knowledge, and encouragement. Thunder initially focused its exploration as a prospect generating shop and, subsequently, its' non-operated working interest participation in South Texas. After a thirty-two year career of prospect generation using a cash and override business model, Mr. Light focused his expertise and Thunder's internally generated capital on participation as a nonoperated working interest owner. Over the last seven years Thunder has participated in over one hundred "new drill" wells and now has various overriding royalty and working interests under forty-five operators. Thunder has intentionally expanded and diversified its non-op working interest participation to include ongoing projects in Michigan, Alabama, Arkansas, and Illinois. Further growth and diversification have been accomplished by purchasing small working interests in both individual producing wells and several multi-well production packages. Mr. Light will also share how geologists can use their professional knowledge and acquired skill set to pursue international plays and prospects on a limited, independent budget. Thunder's third investment pillar and revenue stream involves assembling a stock portfolio of publicly traded oil and gas E&P companies. These companies range in size from junior oil and gas exploration companies to super majors. This investment strategy creates exposure to high-potential, international projects with potential long-term capital appreciation of share price. The established companies in the portfolio provide the additional benefit of a third revenue stream from dividends.