Chronological Chart of Significant Cases on the "Exculpatory Clause"

Case	Model Form ¹	App. Law	Non-Operator's Claim	Scope ²
Huggs, Inc. v. LPC Energy, Inc., 889 F.2d 649 (5th Cir. 1989)	Typed	LA	Failure to pay delay rentals	Broad
Caddo Oil Co., Inc. v. O'Brien, 908 F.2d 13 (5th Cir. 1990)	Unknown	LA	Excess charges	Broad
Stine v. Marathon Oil Co., 976 F.2d 254 (5th Cir. 1992)	1977	TX	Breach of duty as to testing, &	Broad
	or 1982		tortious interference	
Amoco Rocmount Co. v. The Anschutz Corp., 7 F.3d 909 (10th Cir. 1993)	1982	CO	Failure to share proceeds	Narrow
Abraxas Petroleum Corp. v. Hornburg, 20 S.W.3d 741 (Tex.AppEl Paso 2000)	1977	TX	Violation of "subsequent	Narrow
	or 1982		operations clause" of OA	
Cone v. Fagadau Energy Corp., 68 S.W.3d 147 (Tex.AppEastland 2001, pet. den'd)	1982	TX	Improper assessment of costs	Narrow
IP Petroleum Co., Inc. v. Wevanco Energy, LLC, 116 S.W.3d 888 (Tex.AppHouston [1st Dist.]	1977	TX	Failure to drill deeper	Narrow
2003)	or 1982			
Castle Texas Prod. Ltd. P'ship v. Long Trusts, 134 S.W.3d 267 (Tex.AppTyler 2003)	1977	TX	Converting share of prod.	Narrow
	or 1982			
Palace Exploration Co. v. Petroleum Dev. Co., 374 F.3d 951 (10th Cir. 2004)	1977	OK	Moving of well location without	Broad
	or 1982		notice or approval	
Matrix Prod. Co. v. Ricks Expl. Inc., 102 P.3d 1285 (Ct. App. N.M. 2004)	1977	NM	Failure to provide notice	Broad
	or 1982			
Shell Rocky Mountain Prod., LLC v. Ultra Resources, Inc., 415 F.3d 1158 (10th Cir. 2005)	1977	WY	Excessive drilling & operations	Narrow
	or 1982		costs	
R & R Resources Corp. v. Echelon Oil & Gas, L.L.C., 2006 WL 66458 (Tex.App.—Austin 2006)	1989	TX	Refusal to relinquish operations	Narrow
Forest Oil Corp. v. Union Oil Co., 2006 WL 905345 (D. Alaska Apr. 7, 2006)	Typed	AK	Disposal costs for NORM	Narrow
PYR Energy Corp. v. Samson Resources Co., 470 F.Supp.2d 709 (E.D. Tex. 2007)	1977	TX	Pooling without authority	Broad
	or 1982			
Chesapeake Operating, Inc. v. Sanchez Oil & Gas Corp., 2012 WL 2133554 (S.D. Tex. June 12,	1977	LA	Failure to pay JIBs	Broad
2012)	or 1982			
Reeder v. Wood County Energy, LLC, 395 S.W.3d 789 (Tex. 2012)	1989	TX	Illegal prod., concealment	Broad
MDU Barnett Ltd. P'ship v. Chesapeake Expl. Ltd. P'ship, 2014 WL 585740 (S.D. Tex. Feb. 14,	1982	TX	Failure to provide accurate	Narrow
2014)			information or data	
Shell Offshore Inc. v. ENI Petroleum USA LLC, 2017 WL 4226154 (E.D. La. Sept. 21, 2017)	Offshore	LA	Not obtain approval, competitive	Narrow
	Form		bidding, financial disclosure	
Bradford Energy Capital, LLC v. SWEPI LP, 2020 WL 5747841 (W.D. Pa. Sept. 25, 2020)	Typed	PA	Failure to put well in production	Broad
Crimson Expl. Operating, Inc. v. BPX Operating Co., 2021 WL 786541 (Tex. App.—Houston	1989	TX	Drilling using substandard	Narrow
[14th Dist.] 2021, pet. den'd)			methods & materials	
Bachtell Enterprises LLC v. Ankor E&P Holdings Corp., 651 S.W. 3d 514 (Tex. App.—Houston	1989	TX	Failure to secure consent to	Narrow
[14th Dist.] 2023)			expenditure	

- 1. Cases do not always identify the Model Form involved. Where not stated to be Model Form, listed as "typed" or "unknown."
- 2. "Narrow" means that the clause is held applicable to only claims resulting from physical activities associated with operations conducted under the operating agreement, but not to breach of contract claims (or no claims of breach of contract were involved). "Broad" means that the clause is held applicable to both claims resulting from physical activities as well as breaches of contract.
- © Patrick S. Ottinger (2023)