



Whiting Petroleum Corporation

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NEWS RELEASE

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Whiting Announces Retirement of John R. Hazlett, Vice President of Land and Acquisitions and Appointment of David M. Seery as Vice President of Land

DENVER – January 4, 2005 – Whiting Petroleum Corporation (NYSE: WLL) announced the retirement of John R. Hazlett, Vice President of Land and Acquisitions effective January 1, 2005. Also effective January 1, 2005, David M. Seery was appointed Vice President of Land. Mr. Hazlett joined Whiting in 1994 and has over forty years of experience in the oil and natural gas industry as a land man and acquisitions team leader.

“John has made an invaluable contribution to the success of Whiting,” said James J. Volker, President and Chief Executive Officer of Whiting Petroleum. “John’s knowledge, experience and friendship will be surely missed. As part of our succession process, John and Dave have been working closely since Dave joined Whiting.” As previously announced, Douglas Lang was appointed Vice President of Reservoir Engineering/Acquisitions on October 27, 2004.

Mr. Seery joined Whiting in July 2004 as a result of the merger with Equity Oil Company where he held the duties of Manager of Land and Manager of Equity’s Exploration Department. Mr. Seery has 24 years of land experience including staff and managerial positions with Marathon Oil Company. Mr. Seery holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from the University of Montana. He is a Registered Land Professional and held various duties with the Denver Association of Petroleum Landmen.

James J. Volker, President and Chief Executive Officer of Whiting Petroleum stated: "Whiting is fortunate to be able to fill the void left by John’s retirement with such a high caliber and focused individual as Dave. His excellent leadership skills and experience will make him an important contributor to Whiting’s continued success."

About Whiting Petroleum

Whiting Petroleum Corporation is a holding company for Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation and Equity Oil Company. Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation is a growing energy company based in Denver, Colorado that is engaged in oil and natural gas acquisition, exploitation, exploration and production activities primarily in the Gulf Coast, Permian Basin, Rocky Mountains, Michigan and Mid-Continent regions of the United States. The Company trades publicly under the symbol WLL on the New York Stock Exchange. For further information, please visit www.whiting.com.

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