

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
MIDLAND/ODESSA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

(1) AGHORN OPERATING, INC., et al.

NO. 7:22-CR-00049-DC

**NOTICE OF AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE AND MOTION TO  
CONTINUE MARCH 10 MOTIONS HEARING**

COMES NOW THE UNITED STATES, through counsel, and, on behalf of all parties, informs the Court that last night the parties reached an agreement to settle this case as to all Defendants by pleas. The agreements will ask the Court to accept agreed sentences for all defendants under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(C). The parties are working diligently to prepare plea documents, but they will not be finished before tomorrow's scheduled hearing.

Based on the above, the parties do not believe there is a need for a contested hearing on March 10-11, and pleas would moot the pending motions as well. Counsel for all parties are in Midland and can appear as scheduled if the Court has any questions. Otherwise, we move that the Court cancel the hearing set for tomorrow, and the parties will work to finish the plea documents in coming days and then schedule a change-of-plea hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam R.F. Gustafson  
ACTING ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT and NATURAL  
RESOURCES DIVISION

By: /s/ Thomas T. Ballantine  
THOMAS T. BALLANTINE  
Assistant Section Chief  
California Bar. 208193  
Environmental Crimes Section  
Environment & Natural Resources Division  
4 Constitution Square  
150 M Street, NE, Suite 4.204  
Washington, DC 20044

By: /s/ Christopher J. Costantini  
CHRISTOPHER J. COSTANTINI  
Senior Trial Attorney  
Pennsylvania Bar No. 64146  
Environmental Crimes Section  
Environment & Natural Resources Division  
4 Constitution Square  
150 M Street, NE, Suite 4.212  
Washington, DC 20044

By: /s/ Mark T. Romley  
MARK T. ROMLEY  
Trial Attorney  
California Bar No. 240655  
Environmental Crimes Section  
Environment & Natural Resources Division  
999 18th Street, Suite 370, South Terrace  
Denver, CO 80202

**Certificate of Service**

I certify that on March 9, 2025, I filed this document with the Clerk using the CM/ECF filing system, which will cause a copy of the document to be delivered to counsel of record.

By: /s/ Thomas T. Ballantine  
THOMAS T. BALLANTINE