Docket #0136 Date Filed: 03/05/2026

So Ordered.

Signed this 5 day of March, 2026.

Wendy A. Kinsella

Wendy A. Kinsella
United States Bankruptcy Judge

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re: Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC, Debtor.[1]	Chapter 11 Case No. 26-60110 (WAK)

FINAL ORDER (I) AUTHORIZING THE DEBTOR TO PAY PREPETITION EMPLOYEE WAGES, BENEFITS, AND RELATED ITEMS AND (II) GRANTING CERTAIN RELATED RELIEF

This matter coming before the Court on the *Motion of the Debtor and Debtor in Possession for Interim and Final Orders (I) Authorizing the Debtor to Pay Prepetition Employee Wages, Benefits and Related Items and (II) Granting Certain Related Relief* (the "Motion") [Docket No. 14],[2] filed by the above-captioned debtor and debtor in possession (collectively, the "Debtor");

[1] The Debtor is Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC (EIN 13-1432885). The Debtor's noticing address in this Chapter 11 case is 33 Winfield Street, Norwalk, CT 06855.

[2] Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the meanings given to them in the Motion.

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the Court having reviewed the Motion and the First Day Declaration and having considered the statements of counsel and the evidence adduced with respect to the Motion at a hearing before the Court (the "Hearing"); the Court having entered the first interim order [Docket No. 41] and the second interim order [Docket No. 99]; the Court having found that (i) the Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334, (ii) this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b), (iii) venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409, (iv) notice of the Motion and the Hearing was sufficient under the circumstances, (v) the relief sought in the Motion is in the best interest of the Debtor's estate and creditors and is an exercise of the Debtor's reasonable business judgment, (vi) the payment of prepetition amounts as requested in the Motion is necessary and appropriate to prevent immediate and irreparable harm to the Debtor's business operations and will serve to protect and preserve the Debtor's estate for the benefit of all stakeholders and, thus, cause exists to permit such payments to be made immediately notwithstanding Bankruptcy Rule 6003, and (vii) there is good cause to waive the 14-day stay imposed by Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h) to the extent it is applicable; and the Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and the First Day Declaration and at the Hearing establish just cause for the relief granted herein;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion is GRANTED as set forth herein on a final basis.

2. The Debtor is authorized, but not directed, in the Debtor's sole discretion, and in accordance with the Approved Budget (as defined in the DIP Financing Motion), to pay the Prepetition Compensation, Prepetition Benefits, Prepetition Business Expenses and Payroll Processing Fees that have accrued, but remained unpaid, as of the Petition Date other than

amounts owed under the Sales Incentive Program, provided that such payments shall not exceed the aggregate amounts set forth in the chart below unless otherwise or further ordered by the Court:

Relief Sought	Amount Requested
Wage Obligations	$425,000
Employer Payroll Taxes	$37,000
Sales Incentive Program	$103,213
Health and Welfare Benefits	$325,000
COBRA Benefits	$0
401(k) Non-Union Plans	$30,000
Pension Plans	$0
Workers' Compensation Program	$35,000
PTO	$200,000
Severance	$0
Prepetition Business Expenses	$50,000
Payroll Processor Fees	$10,000
Non-Insider Retention Bonus Program	$10,000

3. Nothing in this Final Order shall be deemed to authorize the payment of any amounts subject to section 503(c) of the Bankruptcy Code; provided that nothing in this Final Order shall prejudice the Debtor's ability to seek approval of such relief pursuant to section 503(c) of the Bankruptcy Code.

4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Final Order to the contrary, payments to or on behalf of Employees on account of prepetition obligations shall be limited by

sections 507(a)(4) and 507(a)(5) of the Bankruptcy Code and capped at the amount afforded priority by those statutory subsections, unless such amounts are above the statutory cap as a result of a cash payment of unpaid PTO or the Sales Incentive Program; provided that the Debtor is only authorized to make cash payments for unpaid PTO if any state or other applicable law requires the to do so.

5. Pursuant to section 362(d) of the Bankruptcy Code, the automatic stay is modified solely to the extent necessary to allow Employees to proceed with their claims under the Workers' Compensation Program in the appropriate judicial or administrative forum, and Employees are authorized to so proceed. The Debtor is authorized, but not directed, to continue the Workers' Compensation Program and pay, in accordance with the Approved Budget, all prepetition amounts relating thereto in the ordinary course of business, consistent with prepetition practices. The modification of the automatic stay set forth in this paragraph pertains solely to claims under the Workers' Compensation Program.

6. The Banks are authorized, at the Debtor's direction, to receive, process, honor and pay all checks presented for payment of, and to honor all fund transfer requests made by, the Debtor related to relief granted by this Final Order, whether such checks were presented or fund transfer requests were submitted, prior to, on or after the Petition Date, provided that sufficient funds are available in the Debtor's accounts to cover such checks and fund transfers. The Banks are authorized to rely on the Debtor's designation of any particular check or funds transfer as approved by this Final Order without any duty of further inquiry and without liability for following the Debtor's instructions.

7. Nothing in the Motion or this Final Order, nor the Debtor's payment of claims pursuant to this Final Order, shall be deemed or construed as: (i) an admission as to the

validity of any claim against the Debtor; (ii) a waiver of the Debtor's rights to dispute any claim, including the amount or priority thereof, on any grounds; (iii) a promise to pay any claim; (iv) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined hereunder; or (v) the assumption of any executory contract or unexpired lease.

8. The requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6003(b) have been satisfied with respect to the payments authorized by this Final Order.

9. This Final Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry. To the extent that it may be applicable, the 14-day stay imposed by Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h) and any notice requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) are hereby waived.

10. The Debtor is authorized and empowered to take all actions necessary to implement the relief granted in this Final Order.

11. This Court shall retain jurisdiction over any and all matters arising from or related to the implementation or interpretation of this Final Order.

12. The Debtor may seek further relief related to the obligations discussed in the Motion.

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