Docket #0926 Date Filed: 09/09/2026

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:	Chapter 11
VANDERBILT MINERALS, LLC,	Case No. 26-60110 (WAK)
Debtor.[1]	(Jointly Administered)

COVER SHEET TO THE FIRST INTERIM APPLICATION OF PROVINCE, LLC AS FINANCIAL ADVISOR, CLAIMS ESTIMATION ADVISOR, AND SALES PROCESS ADVISOR TO THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS FOR COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD OF MARCH 7, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

Basic Information	
Name of Applicant	Province, LLC
Name of Client	Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors
Petition Date	February 16, 2026
Retention Date	*nunc pro tunc* to March 7, 2026
Date of Order Approving Employment	May 15, 2026
Sixteenth Interim Period	
Time Period Covered	March 7, 2026 through June 30, 2026
Total Hours Billed	3,118.5
Total Fees Requested	$2,700,356.00
80% of Fees Requested	$2,160,284.80
20% of Fees Requested	$540,071.20
Total Expenses Requested	$4,552.61
Blended Rate (All Timekeepers)	$865.92
Blended Rate (All Professionals)	$866.19
Fees Requested over Budgeted Amount (if any)	$0.00
Total Professionals	18
Rate Increases Not Previously Approved/Disclosed?	No
Historical Information	
Allowed Fees paid to date	$2,160,076.00
Allowed Expenses paid to date	$4,552.61
Fees approved to date by interim order	N/A

[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, Connecticut 06855.

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Expenses approved to date by interim order	N/A

This is Province, LLC's first interim application in these cases.

PRIOR MONTHLY FEE STATEMENTS SUBJECT TO INTERIM PERIOD

Date Filed	Period	Requested		Paid		Unpaid	
		Fees	Expenses	Fees	Expenses	Fees	Expenses
6/9/2026 Doc 726	March 7, 2026 - March 31, 2026	$1,125,496.00	$1,152.32	$900,396.80	$1,152.32	$225,099.20	$0.00
6/9/2026 Doc 727	April 1, 2026 - April 30, 2027	$1,130,476.00	$3,075.49	$904,380.80	$3,075.49	$226,095.20	$0.00
7/7/2026 Doc 788	May 1, 2026 - May 31, 2026	$306,716.00	$324.80	$245,372.80	$324.80	$61,343.20	$0.00
7/20/2026 Doc 813	June 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026	$137,407.00	$0.00	$109,925.60	$0.00	$27,481.40	$0.00
Grand Total:		**$2,700,095.00**	**$4,552.61**	**$2,160,076.00**	**$4,552.61**	**$540,019.00**	**$0.00**

COMPENSATION BY TIMEKEEPER DURING INTERIM PERIOD
MARCH 7, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

Name of Professional Individual	Position of the Applicant, Year of Obtaining License to Practice, Area of Expertise	Hourly Billing Rate	Total Hours Billed	Total Compensation
Michael Atkinson, MBA, CPA, CIRA, ABV, CVA, CFE, CFF	Partner – Financial consulting, bankruptcy consulting, and litigation analysis since 1991.	$1,560	196.5	$306,540.00
Daniel Moses	Partner – Corporate restructuring.	$1,530	4.8	$7,344.00
Jason Crockett, MBA, CIRA	Partner - Financial consulting, corporate restructuring, and litigation analysis since 2002.	$1,200	253.3	$303,960.00
Eunice Min	Senior Director - Corporate restructuring, litigation analysis, investment banking, and corporate finance since 2012.	$980	2.2	$2,156.00
James Bland	Senior Director - Financial analytics and management consulting since 2016.	$980	432.0	$423,360.00
Carlos Lovera, MBA	Senior Director - Corporate restructuring, litigation analysis, investment banking, and corporate finance since 2012.	$940	513.8	$482,972.00
Raul Busto	Senior Director - Financial consulting, corporate restructuring and litigation analysis since 2018.	$940	264.0	$248,160.00
Tanner James	Director - Corporate restructuring.	$860	0.3	$258.00
Ryan Power	Vice President - Financial and data analytics.	$820	59.7	$48,954.00
Mitchell Boal, CFA	Vice President - Financial and data analytics.	$800	459.5	$367,600.00
Patrick Burel	Vice President - Investment banking and financial analytics.	$770	3.4	$2,618.00
Keith Piwowar	Vice President - Financial and data analytics.	$700	82.4	$57,680.00
Timothy Strickler	Senior Associate - Corporate restructuring, litigation and financial investigation.	$670	11.8	$7,906.00
Byron Goth	Senior Associate - Corporate restructuring and data analytics.	$650	84.3	$54,795.00
Jarrod Freedman, CPA	Associate - Corporate and private equity advising, strategic transactions.	$550	185.3	$101,915.00

Name of Professional Individual	Position of the Applicant, Year of Obtaining License to Practice, Area of Expertise	Hourly Billing Rate	Total Hours Billed	Total Compensation
Javier Figueroa	Associate - Risk assessment, internal controls, and credit policy optimization.	$520	243.1	$126,412.00
Claire Jin	Senior Analyst	$490	316.2	$154,938.00
Matthew Mitchell	Senior Analyst	$490	3.9	$1,911.00
	Subtotal		**3,116.5**	**$2,699,479.00**
	Blended Rate for Professionals	**$866.19**		
Paraprofessionals		**Hourly Billing Rate**	**Total Hours Billed**	**Total Compensation**
Eric Mattson	Matter Manager	$330	0.9	$297.00
Jocelyn Brock	Matter Administrator	$290	1.1	$580.00
	Subtotal		**2.0**	**$877.00**
			Fee Statement Hours	**Total Compensation**
	Grand Total		**3,118.5**	**$2,700,356.00**
	Blended Rate for All Billers	**$865.92**		

SUMMARY OF COMPENSATION BY PROJECT CATEGORY
DURING INTERIM PERIOD
MARCH 7, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

Project Categories	Total Hours	Total Fees
Business Analysis / Operations	1,408.0	$1,092,581.00
Case Administration	1.6	$796.00
Claims Analysis and Objections	267.5	$256,643.00
Committee Activities	59.5	$70,802.00
Court Filings	81.6	$89,361.00
Court Hearings	35.3	$43,740.00
Fee / Employment Applications	4.5	$2,426.00
Financing Activities	33.8	$34,074.00
Litigation	1,078.1	$958,002.00
Plan and Disclosure Statement	19.8	$22,459.00
Sale Process	128.8	$129,211.00
Grand Total	**3,118.5**	**$2,700,095.00**

EXPENSE SUMMARY
DURING INTERIM PERIOD
MARCH 7, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

Expense Category	Description	Total Expenses
Airfare/Train	Flight to/from ROC while traveling to attend hearing, flight to/from SYR while traveling to attend hearing and train to/from New York, NY while traveling to attend auction.	$1,895.39
Ground Transportation	Transportation and parking fee while traveling to Syracuse, NY to attend hearing and New York, NY to attend auction.	$643.84
Lodging	Hotel accommodation while traveling to Syracuse, NY to attend hearing.	$1,344.79
Meals	Meals while traveling to Syracuse, NY to attend hearing.	$668.59
Total Expenses		**$4,552.61**

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:	Chapter 11
VANDERBILT MINERALS, LLC,	Case No. 26-60110 (WAK)
Debtor.[1]	(Jointly Administered)

FIRST INTERIM APPLICATION OF PROVINCE, LLC AS FINANCIAL ADVISOR, CLAIMS ESTIMATION ADVISOR, AND SALES PROCESS ADVISOR TO THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS FOR COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD OF MARCH 7, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

Province, LLC ("**Applicant**" or "**Province**"), financial advisor, claims estimation advisor, and sales process advisor to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "**Committee**") of Vanderbilt Minerals, LLC. (the "**Debtor**"), in the above-captioned chapter 11 case, respectfully represents:

INTRODUCTION

1. This is Applicant's first interim fee application (the "**Application**") for compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to § 330 and 331 of chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "**Bankruptcy Code**"), Rule 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "**Bankruptcy Rules**"), Rule 2016-1 of the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Practice and Procedure of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "**Local Rules**"), the Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under 11 U.S.C. § 330 by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases

[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, Connecticut 06855.

(the "**U.S. Trustee Guidelines**"), and the Order Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for Professionals and Members of Official Committees (the "**Interim Compensation Order**") [D.I. 419].

2. Pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order, Applicant may file monthly fee statements with this Court. As described in the summary sheets to this Application, Applicant has previously filed monthly fee statements requesting allowance of fees and expenses for the periods of (i) March 7, 2026 through March 31, 2026, (ii) April 1, 2026 through April 30, 2026, (iii) May 1, 2026 through May 31, 2026, and (iv) June 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026 (collectively, the "**Monthly Fee Statements**"). These statements included, among other things, contemporaneously maintained time entries for each professional who provided services during the Interim Period, maintained in increments of tenths (1/10) of an hour, and an itemization and description of the costs and expenses incurred by Applicant. The Monthly Fee Statements are hereby incorporated by reference.

3. This Application seeks interim approval of compensation for services rendered by Applicant in the amount of **$2,700,095.00** and reimbursement of certain expenses incurred by the Applicant in the amount of **$4,552.61** for the period of March 7, 2026 through June 30, 2026 (the "**Interim Period**"). This Application complies with the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Rules, the Interim Compensation Order, and the U.S. Trustee Guidelines.

4. In support of this Application, Province submits the Certification of Michael Atkinson, which is annexed hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated by reference into this Application. In support of this Application, Province respectfully represents as follows:

BACKGROUND

5. On February 16, 2026, (the "**Petition Date**"), the Debtor filed a voluntary petition with this Court for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtor is operating their business and managing their properties as debtor-in-possession pursuant to Sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.

6. On March 3, 2026, the Office of the United States Trustee (the "U.S. Trustee") for Region 2 appointed the Committee, consisting of the following seven (7) members: (i) Kathleen Dole; (ii) Charles Kamprad; (iii) Frank Richard Kurzynske; (iv) Heather Colding, Estate of Rebecca Sherman; (v) Donna Franklin, Special Administrator for the Estate of Phillip Franklin; (vi) Lisa Miller, Administrator of the Estate of Joseph E. Okolish; and (vii) Linda Weaver, Executor of the Estate of Anna Bishop [D.I. 111].[2]

7. On March 7, 2026, the Committee selected Province as its proposed financial advisor, claims estimation advisor, and sales process advisor.

8. On April 22, 2026, the Committee filed the *Application for Entry of an Order Authorizing and Approving the Employment of Province, LLC as Financial Advisor, Claims Estimation Advisor, and Sale Process Advisor to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors Effective as of Mach 7, 2026* [D.I. 449]. On May 15, 2026, this Court approved the Committee's employment and retention of Applicant pursuant to the *Order Application for Entry of an Order Authorizing and Approving the Employment of Province, LLC as Financial Advisor, Claims*

[2] The Committee currently comprises the following members: (i) The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association (the "Chair"); (ii) CVS Caremark Part D Services L.L.C. and CaremarkPCS Health L.L.C.; (iii) Cheryl Juaire; (iv) Kara Trainor; (v) LTS Lohmann Therapy Systems Corporation; (vi) Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; (vii) Walter Lee Salmons; and (viii) West Boca Medical Center, plus three *ex officio* members, Cameron County, Texas on behalf of the MSGE Group, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, on behalf of certain Native American Tribes and Native American-affiliated creditors, and Thornton Township High School District 205, on behalf of certain public school districts.

Estimation Advisor, and Sale Process Advisor to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors Effective as of Mach 7, 2026 [D.I. 603].

JURISDICTION

9. This Court has jurisdiction to consider this Application pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2). Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409. The statutory predicates for the relief requested herein are §§ 105(a), 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 2016.

SERVICES RENDERED DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD

10. During the Interim Period, Applicant's services to the Committee included professional advice and representation in connection with discrete categories in this chapter 11 proceeding. The aggregate hours and amount for each category are set forth on the cover page to this Application.

11. To apprise this Court of the services provided during the Interim Period, Applicant sets forth the following summary of services rendered. The summary is intended only to highlight the general project categories of services performed by Applicant on behalf of the Committee; it is not intended to set forth each and every item of professional services which Applicant performed.

Business Analysis / Operations

12. Incorporated within this project category is time spent by Applicant's personnel in connection with the evaluation and analysis of certain aspects of the Debtor's business and financial performance. The work performed in this task code was necessary for the Committee to be informed on the Debtors' cash position and liquidity during this chapter 11 case.

13. Specific services provided by Province during the Interim Period include, but are not limited to:

a. analyzing the Debtor's cash budgets, assets and liabilities, and overall financial condition;
b. reviewing financial and operational information furnished by the Debtor to the Committee including but not limited to prescription data, monthly flash reports, and product sales data;
c. reviewing and analyzing the Debtor's prepetition and post-petition financial performance by segment;
d. analyzing the latest version of the Debtor's proposed business plan and developing alternative scenarios;
e. analyzing the economics of various strategic options for the future of the company;
f. analyzing the available value to the estate and creditors and the timing of cash flows under multiple scenarios and potential allocations to creditors;
g. discussing budget and other business and financial results with the advisors to the Debtor and other case parties, as well as with committee counsel, committee professionals and within internal team.

14. Applicant expended 1,408.0 hours of time for a charge of $1,092,581.00 for services rendered with respect to matters relating to this project category.

Case Administration

15. Incorporated within this project category is time incurred by Province personnel while performing various administrative tasks that do not clearly fit into other categories.

16. Applicant expended 1.6 hours of time for a total charge of $796.00 for services rendered in connection with this project category.

Claims Analysis and Objections

17. Incorporated within this project category is time incurred by Province personnel while performing various functions directly related to the preliminary analysis and estimate of potential claims, including administrative and general unsecured claims.

18. Applicant expended 267.5 hours of time for a total charge of $256,643.00 for services rendered in connection with this project category.

Committee Activities

19. Incorporated within this project category is time incurred by Applicant's personnel while performing various functions directly related to preparing for, meeting with, and corresponding with the Committee and its professionals with regards to the Committee's position and next steps.

20. Specific services provided by Province during the Interim Period include, but are not limited to:

a. preparing for and participating in calls with the Committee and its counsel as well as various other creditors on issues related to the bankruptcy proceeding;
b. preparing summaries of various analyses (including periodic financial update and other analyses) into presentation materials to be shared with the Committee and its counsel;
c. conferring with other Province professionals regarding various analyses and issues directly related to questions and concerns of the Committee.

21. Applicant expended 59.5 hours of time for a charge of $70,802.00 for services rendered in connection with this project category.

Court Filings

22. Incorporated within this project category is time incurred by Applicant's personnel while performing various functions directly related to evaluating and commenting on motions, orders, and other relevant filings on the docket.

23. Applicant expended 81.6 hours of time for a charge of $89,361.00 for services rendered in connection with this project category.

Court Hearings

24. Incorporated within this project category is time incurred by Applicant's personnel while attending the various hearings of the Debtor.

25. Applicant expended 35.3 hours of time for a charge of $43,740.00 for services rendered in connection with this project category.

Fee / Employment Applications

26. Incorporated within this project category is time incurred by Province personnel while performing various functions directly related to the employment application and monthly fee statements of Province for this chapter 11 case.

27. Applicant expended 4.5 hours of time for a charge of $2,426.00 for services rendered in connection with this project category.

Financing Activities

28. Incorporated within this project category is time incurred by Province personnel while performing various functions related to the Debtor's efforts to obtain DIP financing.

29. Applicant expended 33.8 hours of time for a charge of $34,074.00 for services rendered in connection with this project category.

Litigation

30. Incorporated within this project category is time incurred by Province personnel while performing various activities related to the Debtor's potential causes of action.

31. Applicant expended 1,078.1 hours of time for a charge of $958,002.00 for services rendered in connection with this project category.

Plan and Disclosure Statement

32. Incorporated within this project category is time incurred by Province personnel while performing various functions directly related to the Debtor's proposed plan and disclosure statement.

33. Applicant expended 19.8 hours of time for a charge of $22,459.00 for services rendered in connection with this project category.

/ / / /

Sale Process

34. Incorporated within this project category is time incurred by Province personnel while performing various functions directly related to the potential sale of the Debtor's assets.

35. Applicant expended 128.8 hours of time for a charge of $129,211.00 for services rendered in connection with this project category.

MATTERS PERTAINING TO APPLICANT DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD

36. Applicant has maintained contemporaneous time records which indicate the time that each professional has spent working on a particular matter and the nature of the work performed. Copies of these time records are included in the Monthly Fee Statements and are hereby incorporated by reference. The total number of hours expended by Applicant's professionals and paraprofessionals during the Interim Period in connection with these cases is 3,118.5 All of the services have been rendered by the individuals at Applicant's firm.

37. The professionals who have expended time on this matter during the Interim Period are as follows: Michael Atkinson, Daniel Moses, Jason Crockett, Eunice Min, James Bland, Carlos Lovera, Raul Busto, Tanner James, Ryan Power, Mitchell Boal, Patrick Burel, Keith Piwowar, Timothy Strickler, Byron Groth, Jarrod Freedman, Javier Figueroa, Claire Jin, and Matthew Mitchell.

38. Applicant has extensive experience representing official creditors' committees, debtors, creditors, trustees, and others in a wide variety of bankruptcy cases, including, as (i) financial advisor to the official committees of unsecured creditors of A.B.C. Carpet, AgileThought, Alex and Ani, American Signature, American Tire, Armstrong Flooring, Aruze Gaming, Ascena Group, Avadim Health, Avon Products, Barretts Minerals, Benitago, BL Restaurants Holding, Boundless Broadband, Carbonlite Holdings, Carbon Health, CarePoint Health, Cherry Man

Industries, Claire's Holdings, Conn's, Inc., Cyprus Mines, David's Bridal, DCL Holdings (USA), Del Monte, Desktop Metal, Destination Maternity, DirectBuy Home Improvement, Eastern Outfitters, EHT US1 (Eagle Hospitality), Endo International, Exactech, Express, Forever 21, Francesca's Holding Corporation, Groff Tractor, Harvest Sherwood, Honx, Hooters of America, Insys Therapeutics, Independent Pet Partners, Invacare, J Crew, Kal Freight, LifeScan Global, Lucky's Market, L'Occitane, LifeScan Global, Lumio Holdings, Mallinckrodt, Meyer Burger, Mosaic Companies, Mountain Express Oil Company, Nielsen & Bainbridge (NBD Home), Neopharma, Noble House, Norcold, One Web, Papyrus, Path Medical, Pier 1, PBS Brand Co. (Punch Bowl), Pine Gate Renewables, PosiGen, Purdue Pharma, Prime Core Technologies, Prospect Medical, Restoration Forest Products Group, LLC, Reverse Mortgage, Revlon, Salt Life, Sientra, SiO2 Medical Products, South Hills Operations, Spicey Partners Real Estate Holdings, LLC, STG Logistics, Stimwave Technologies, Surgalign, TECT Aerospace Group, The Rockport Company, True Religion Apparel, True Value, Tuesday Morning, US Magnesium, Virgin Orbit, Water Gremlin, Wesco Aircraft, White Stallion Energy, Whittaker, Clark & Daniels, and Winsor Terrace; (ii) financial advisor to the debtors 4E Brands, Basic Energy Services, Cherry Man Industries, Cinemex Holdings USA, Codiak BioSciences, Coin Cloud, Frontsight Management, Penthouse Global Media, Rhodium Encore, Superior Linen, True Religion Apparel, WeWork, Woodbridge Group of Companies, and Zynex; and (iii) trustee or trustee advisor in Aegean Marine Petroleum, Advance Watch, American Apparel, Aruze Gaming, Borden Dairy, CS Mining, Cycle Force, DCL, EBH Topco, Eclipse Berry Farms, Energy & Exploration (ENXP), Fieldwood, Gump's, Invacare, La Paloma Generating Company, Limetree Bay Services, Invacare, LifeScan Global, Mallinckrodt, Maxus Energy, Norcold, Neogenix, PBS Brand Co. (Punch Bowl), Promise

Healthcare Group, Proterra, RadioShack Corporation, RMIT (Reverse Mortgage), Samson Resources, SiO2, Stimwave Technologies, and Vesta Holdings, among others.

39. During the Interim Period, the professionals and paraprofessionals of Applicant devoted 3,118.5 hours in rendering professional services to the Committee, all of which time was reasonable and necessary.

40. Applicant rendered all the professional services for which compensation is requested herein in connection with the Debtor's chapter 11 case in furtherance of Applicant's professional responsibilities as financial advisor, claims estimation advisor, and sale process advisor to the Committee.

41. Province has used its reasonable efforts to avoid duplication of services provided to any of the Committee's other retained professionals in this chapter 11 case.

EXPENSES INCURRED DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD

42. Annexed as part of the cover sheet is a list of the necessary and actual disbursements incurred during the Interim Period in connection with the above-described work. The list is derived from the information in the Monthly Fee Statements and are hereby incorporated by reference. These records indicate that Applicant has advanced the sum of $4,552.61 in necessary and actual out-of-pocket expenses during the Interim Period.

DISCLOSURES PURSUANT TO THE REVISED U.S. TRUSTEE GUIDELINES

43. The Committee reviewed all of Applicant's Monthly Fee Statements in advance of each Monthly Fee Statement being filed and served. Applicant asserts that the fees sought for the Interim Period are reasonable and necessary and that the services provided value to the Committee.

44. Eighteen professionals and two paraprofessional are included in this Application.

45. The following is provided in response to the request for additional information set forth in Paragraph C.5 of the Revised UST Guidelines:

Question: Did you agree to any variations from, or alternatives to, your standard or customary billing arrangements for this engagement?

Response: No.

Question: If the fees sought in this fee application as compared to the fees budgeted for the time period covered by this fee application are higher by 10% or more, did you discuss the reasons for the variation with the client?

Response: N/A

Question: Have any of the professionals included in this fee application varied their hourly rate based on the geographic location of the bankruptcy case?

Response: No.

Question: Does the fee application include time or fees related to reviewing or revising time records or preparing, reviewing, or revising invoices?

Response: Yes.

Question: Does this fee application include time or fees for reviewing time records to redact any privileged or other confidential information?

Response: Yes.

Question: Does this fee application include rate increases since retention?

Response: No.

ALLOWANCE OF INTERIM COMPENSATION

46. With respect to the level of compensation, section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Court may award to a professional person, "reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services rendered." Section 330(a)(3), in turn, provides that:

> In determining the amount of reasonable compensation to be awarded . . ., the court shall consider the nature, the extent, and the

> value of such services, taking into account all relevant factors, including –
>
> (A) the time spent on such services;
>
> (B) the rates charged for such services;
>
> (C) whether the services were necessary to the administration of, or beneficial at the time which the service was rendered toward the completion of, a case under this title;
>
> (D) whether the services were performed within a reasonable amount of time commensurate with the complexity, importance, and nature of the problem, issue, or task addressed;
>
> (E) with respect to a professional person, whether the person is board certified or otherwise has demonstrated skill and experience in the bankruptcy field; and
>
> (F) whether the compensation is reasonable based on the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners in cases other than cases under this title.

11 U.S.C. § 330(a)(3).

47. The congressional policy expressed above provides for adequate compensation in order to continue to attract qualified and competent professionals to bankruptcy cases. See In Re Busy Beaver Bldg. Ctrs., Inc., 19 F.3d 833, 850 (3d Cir. 1994) ("Congress rather clearly intended to provide sufficient economic incentive to lure competent bankruptcy specialists to practice in the bankruptcy courts.") (citation and internal quotation marks omitted); In re Drexel Burnham Lambert Group, Inc., 133 B.R. 13, 18 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1991) ("Congress' objective on requiring that the market, not the Court, establish attorneys' rates was to ensure that bankruptcy cases were staffed by appropriate legal specialists.").

48. Applicant asserts that in accordance with the factors enumerated in 11 U.S.C. § 330, the amount requested is fair and reasonable given (a) the complexity of these cases, (b) the time expended, (c) the nature and extent of the services rendered, (d) the value of such services,

and (e) the costs of comparable services other than in a case under this title. It is respectfully submitted that, had professionals with less experience in these types of matters been retained, the cost to the estate would have been much greater.

49. No agreement or understanding exists between Applicant and any other entity for the sharing of compensation to be received for services rendered in or in connection with this chapter 11 case. The fees charged by Applicant in this case are billed in accordance with the existing billing rates and procedures in effect during the Interim Period. The services rendered by Applicant were necessary and beneficial to the Committee, consistently performed in a timely manner, and reasonable in light of the value of such services to the Committee, Applicant's demonstrated skill and expertise in the bankruptcy field, and the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners. Applicant, by experience, training, and ability, is fully qualified to perform the services for which compensation is sought here. Applicant represents or holds no interest adverse to the Committee with respect to the matters upon which it is engaged. Accordingly, Applicant submits that approval of the compensation for professional services and reimbursement of expenses sought herein is warranted.

NOTICE, PRIOR APPLICATION AND CERTIFICATION

50. Notice of this Application has been provided in accordance with the Interim Compensation Order. Applicant submits that the foregoing constitutes good and sufficient notice and that no other or further notice need be provided.

51. No previous application for the relief sought herein has been made to this or any other court.

52. Applicant has reviewed the requirements of the Local Rules and certifies that this Application complies with the Interim Compensation Order and the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and the Local Rules.

53. **WHEREFORE**, Applicant respectfully requests interim allowance of compensation for Applicant's duly authorized, necessary and valuable service to the Committee during the Interim Period in the aggregate amount of **$2,700,095.00** and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred by the Applicant in the amount of **$4,552.61** for the period from March 7, 2026 through June 30, 2026, and awarding Applicant such other and further relief that this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: September 9, 2026

/s/ Michael Atkinson
Michael Atkinson, Partner
PROVINCE, LLC
2360 Corporate Circle, Suite 340
Henderson, NV 89074
Telephone: (702) 685-5555
Email: matkinson@provincefirm.com

Financial Advisor, Claims Estimation Advisor, and Sales Process Advisor to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors

EXHIBIT A

Certification

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:	Chapter 11
VANDERBILT MINERALS, LLC,	Case No. 26-60110 (WAK)
Debtor.[1]	(Jointly Administered)

CERTIFICATION OF MICHAEL ATKINSON

Michael Atkinson, a Partner with the firm Province, LLC, after being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says:

1. I am a Partner with Province, LLC, which is a financial advisory firm with its principal office located at 2360 Corporate Circle, Suite 340, Henderson, Nevada 89074. I am duly authorized to make this verification on behalf of Province. Province was retained as financial advisor, claims estimation advisor, and sales process advisor to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee") on March 7, 2026, and Province's employment application was approved by the Court on May 15, 2026.

2. I have personally performed many of the services rendered by Province as financial advisor, claims estimation advisor, and sales process advisor to the Committee and am familiar with the other work performed on behalf of the Committee by the other professionals in the firm.

3. The *First Interim Application of Province, LLC as Financial Advisor, Claims Estimation Advisor, and Sales Process Advisor to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses for the Interim Period of March 7, 2026*

[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, Connecticut 06855.

Through June 30, 2026 (the "Application") was prepared at my direction. The facts set forth in the foregoing Application are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

4. Pursuant to the Guidelines, I certify that:

a. I have read the Application;
b. To the best of my knowledge, information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the fees and disbursements sought fall within the Guidelines, except as specifically set forth herein;
c. The fees and disbursements sought are billed at rates and in accordance with practices customarily employed by Province and generally accepted by Province's clients; and
d. In providing a reimbursable service, Province does not make a profit on that service, whether the service is performed by Province in-house or through a third party.

5. I certify that the Committee was provided a statement of fees and disbursements accrued each month during the Interim Period, containing the items listed in section B.2 of the Administrative Order.

6. In respect of section B.3 of the Local Guidelines, I certify that the Debtor, the U.S. Trustee, and the members of the Committee are each being provided with a copy of the Application.

Executed under penalty of perjury of the laws of the United States on this 9th day of August 2026.

/s/ Michael Atkinson
Michael Atkinson, Partner
Province, LLC