

Edgar Filing: EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP - Form 10QSB

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORP  
Form 10QSB  
May 15, 2006

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
Form 10-QSB

(Mark One)

Quarterly Report Under Section 13 OR 15(d) of the Securities  
Exchange Act of 1934

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2006

Transition Report Under Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 001-16653

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

(Exact name of small business issuer as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

73-1238709  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

8801 S. Yale, Suite 120, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137-3575  
(Address of principal executive offices)

(918) 488-8068  
(Issuer's telephone number)

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

Check whether the issuer (1) filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act during the past 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes             No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes             No

State the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common equity, as of the latest practicable date:

Common Stock, \$.001 Par Value - 42,830,190 shares outstanding as of March 31, 2006.

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Transitional Small Business Disclosure Format: [ ] Yes [X] No  
EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

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PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

BALANCE SHEET

		March 31
		2006
ASSETS		(Unaudited)
<hr/>		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$	233,043
Accounts receivable (net of allowance of \$3,750)		64,974
Total current assets		<hr/> 298,017
Property & equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and depletion		338,602
Total Assets	\$	<hr/> 636,619 <hr/>
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$	146,859
Accounts payable to related party		274,682
Note payable		100,946
Total current liabilities		<hr/> 522,487
Total liabilities		<hr/> 522,487 <hr/>
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock at par value		42,830
Warrants to purchase common stock		67,875
Additional paid in capital		8,907,760
Accumulated deficit		(8,904,333)
Total stockholders' equity		<hr/> 114,132 <hr/>
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$	<hr/> 636,619 <hr/>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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## EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

### STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2006	2005
Revenue:		
Petroleum sales	\$ 1,646	\$ 1,180
	1,646	1,180
Costs and expenses:		
Production & operating	59,416	23,888
General & administrative	65,892	43,504
	125,308	67,392
Operating loss	(123,662)	(66,212)
Other (income) and expense:		
Miscellaneous	0	(2,269)
Interest expense	1,725	1,725
	1,725	(544)
Total other (income) expense	1,725	(544)
Net loss	\$ (125,387)	\$ (65,668)
Net loss		
per common share	\$ .00	\$ .00
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding	42,830,190	37,830,190

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(UNAUDITED)

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31, 2006	March 31, 2005
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net loss	\$ (125,387)	\$ (65,668)
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash used in operating activities:		
Value of services contributed by employees	12,500	12,500
(Increase) decrease in assets:		
Accounts receivable	(26,122)	7,042
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	2,760	8,663
Net cash used in operating activities	(136,249)	(37,463)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Advances from related party	0	35,009
Net cash provided by financing activities	0	35,009
Net decrease in cash	(136,249)	(2,454)
Cash - Beginning	369,292	3,406
Cash -Ending	\$233,043	\$ 952

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2006

(UNAUDITED)

### 1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

The accompanying unaudited financial statements of Empire Petroleum Corporation (Empire, or the Company) have been prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and the instructions to Form 10-QSB. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by United States generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments considered necessary for a fair presentation of the Company's financial position, the results of operations, and the cash flows for the interim period are included. See Note 4 for a description of non-recurring adjustments. Operating results for the interim period are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2006.

The information contained in this Form 10-QSB should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and related notes for the year ended December 31, 2005 which are contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-KSB filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) on March 31, 2006.

The Company has been incurring significant losses in recent years. The continuation of the Company as a going concern is dependent upon the ability of the Company to attain future profitable operations. These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of United States generally accepted accounting principles applicable to a company with continuing operations, which assume that the Company will continue in operation for the foreseeable future and will be able to realize its assets and discharge its obligations in the normal course of operations. Management believes the going concern assumption to be appropriate for these financial statements. If the going concern assumption were not appropriate for these financial statements, then adjustments might be necessary to adjust the carrying value of assets and liabilities and reported expenses.

The Company continues to explore and develop its oil and gas interests. The ultimate recoverability of the Company's investment in its oil and gas interests is dependent upon the existence and discovery of economically recoverable oil and gas reserves, confirmation of the Company's interest in the oil and gas interests, the ability of the Company to obtain necessary financing to further develop the interests, and upon the ability to attain future profitable production.

In 2003, the Company engaged a partner to explore its Cheyenne River Prospect, and signed an agreement to acquire a 10% interest in a block of acreage in the Gabbs Valley Prospect of western Nevada. In June 2005, the Company completed a private placement of 5,000,000 shares of its common stock along with warrants to purchase 1,250,000 shares of its Common Stock for an aggregate purchase price of \$500,000. Subject to certain restrictions, the warrants may be exercised until November 2006 at an exercise price of

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\$0.25 per share. Proceeds of the private placement were allocated \$67,875 to common stock warrants and \$432,125 to common stock and paid-in capital. These funds will be used for general corporate purposes and to pay the Company's

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share of the costs associated with its 10% interest in the Gabbs Valley Oil Prospect in Nevada. The Company believes that its available cash as of March 31, 2006 will be sufficient to finance its operations through the next eight months. In order to sustain the Company's operations on a long term basis, the Company intends to continue to look for merger opportunities and consider public or private financings. The Company anticipates that its Chief Financial Officer will advance the Company the funds necessary to continue its operations through the next twelve months, if necessary. However, there is no assurance that he will do so.

### Compensation of Officers and Employees

The Company's only executive officer serves without pay or other compensation. The fair value of these services is estimated by management and is recognized as a capital contribution. For the three months ended March 31, 2006, the Company recorded \$12,500 as a capital contribution by its executive officer.

### 2. NOTES PAYABLE:

In December 2001, the Company executed a note with Weatherford U.S., L.P. to satisfy an outstanding indebtedness for service in the drilling of the Timber Draw #1-AH well. The principal amount of this note was \$108,334 with interest payments at 10% per annum commencing on May 27, 2001, until all interest and principal amounts are paid in full. Timely payments were made in accordance with the terms of this note through March 2002. In April 2002, the "payee" of this note agreed to a revised payment schedule extending final payment of \$66,997 from April 10, 2002, until June 10, 2002. In connection with this payment schedule, an initial payment of \$10,000 was made in April 2002, however, since that time, no further payments have been made. At March 31, 2006, the Company has accrued a liability of \$100,946 in connection with this note.

### 3. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:

The Company owns a 26.785% working interest in approximately 33,485 acres of oil and gas leases located in Niobrara County, Wyoming (the "Cheyenne River Prospect") and an overriding royalty interest of between 1.5% and 2% in 42,237 acres of oil and gas leases located in or near the Cheyenne River Prospect.

In 2002, the Company's management determined that an impairment allowance of \$6,496,614 was necessary to properly value the Company's oil and gas properties bringing the net book value of the oil and gas properties to \$594,915. The basis for the impairment was the determination by the United States Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") that it does not consider the Timber Draw #1-AH well economic. In other words, under the BLM's criteria for economic determination, the well will not pay out the cost incurred to drill and complete the well. However, by authority of the BLM, for the period from April to November 2003, the well was tested for production using production periods of ten days per month. The BLM also advised the Company that since it did not commence another test well prior to August 12, 2002, the Timber Draw Unit had been terminated. Furthermore, a bottom hole pressure survey conducted in April 2002 indicated a limited reservoir for the well. The basis of the impairment described above was calculated using an estimated \$10 per acre market price for the leases multiplied by the Company's working interest. During 2003, the Company recorded impairment

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charges of \$266,778 based on working interest percentages granted to a third party for performance of certain activities and management's assessment of certain undeveloped lease values. During 2004, pursuant to a Farmout Agreement, a third party conducted a seismic survey and drilled a test well

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in the Cheyenne River Prospect. As a result of the reduction in the Company's working interest, a further impairment charge of \$188,507 was recorded in 2005.

On March 31, 2004, a third party paid approximately \$52,128 of the Company's lease rentals on 32,643 acres in the Cheyenne River Prospect in exchange for an option to drill a test well in order to earn an interest in the farmout block, which option was subject to the third party first completing a seismic survey covering 16 square miles in the Cheyenne River Prospect. This survey was completed in September of 2003. The processing and interpreting of the data from such survey was completed September 30, 2003, and earned the third party a 25% interest in the Timber Draw #1-AH well and prospect acreage. This third party commenced a test well in the NW/4NE/4 Section 15, Twp 39N, Rge 66W, Niobrara County, Wyoming, known as the Empire Hooligan Draw Unit #1-AH, on August 6, 2004. The well was drilled horizontally to a measured drilling depth of 9,332 feet. As a result of this earning well being drilled the Company's working interest in the Hooligan Draw #1-AH well and prospect acreage was reduced to 26.785% and to 17.5% of the Timber Draw #1-AH well. The Company, and the operator of the wells are considering options to increase production for the Cheyenne River Prospect wells. Additionally, the Company has also begun exploring opportunities to sell its interest in the Cheyenne River Prospect.

On May 8, 2003, the Company entered into an agreement with O.F. Duffield (Duffield Agreement) to acquire a ten percent (10%) interest in a block of acreage in the Gabbs Valley Prospect by agreeing to issue 2,000,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock to Mr. Duffield for such 10% interest. The shares were issued in July 2003. This block of acreage in the Gabbs Valley Prospect consists of federal leases covering approximately 45,000 acres in Nye and Mineral Counties, Nevada in which Mr. Duffield has a 100% working interest. Pursuant to the Duffield Agreement, the Company is also entitled to acquire up to a 10% interest in a block of 26,080 acres also located in the Gabbs Valley Prospect should Duffield acquire an interest in this block. The shares were valued at \$.10 per share based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on the date of issuance.

During September 2005, surveyors laid out a 19.5 mile seismic program on the Gabbs Valley Prospect, and a seismic survey was commenced in early October. Field work was carried out and final interpretation of the data was completed in November 2005. Based on the results, the Company is prepared to join in the drilling of a test well in the second or third quarter of 2006.

PetroWorld Nevada Corp. (PWC) is a participant in the Gabbs Valley Prospect with a seismic option to earn a 50% interest from Cortez Exploration, Inc. The Company's Chief Executive Officer is a member of the Board of Directors of both PWC and its parent company PetroWorld Corporation and owns approximately nine (9%) percent of the parent Company which is traded on the AIM Exchange in London and the Toronto Venture Exchange in Toronto. Accounts receivable from PWC totals \$28,304 at March 31, 2006.

#### 4. CONTINGENCIES

The Company's former management (Messrs. McGrain and Jacobsen) entered into a lease agreement for office space in Canada. This office was closed

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after Messrs. McGrain and Jacobsen resigned as officers of the Company. This lease agreement called for monthly lease and tax payments of approximately \$6,834 (Canadian) through April of 2006. A subtenant continued to pay the rentals under the lease until December 2002 and moved out of the office space in January 2003. The Company accrued



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obligations under the lease from April 2002 through the first quarter of 2005. During the second quarter of 2005, the Company determined that the statute of limitations had expired with respect to its obligation under the lease. Accordingly, the Company reversed expenses of \$222,561 (U.S.) including foreign exchange losses accrued in connection with the lease.

### Item 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

#### RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

##### GENERAL TO ALL PERIODS

The Company's primary business is the exploration and development of oil and gas interests. The Company has incurred significant losses from operations, and there is no assurance that it will achieve profitability or obtain funds necessary to finance its operations. Sales revenue for all periods presented is attributable to the production of oil from the Company's Timber Draw #1-AH and the Hooligan Draw #1-AH wells located in the Eastern Powder River Basin in the State of Wyoming, otherwise known as the Cheyenne River Prospect.

For all periods presented, the Company's effective tax rate is 0%. The Company has generated net operating losses since inception, which would normally reflect a tax benefit in the statement of operations and a deferred asset on the balance sheet. However, because of the current uncertainty as to the Company's ability to achieve profitability, a valuation reserve has been established that offsets the amount of any tax benefit available for each period presented in the statements of operations. THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2006, COMPARED TO THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2005.

For the three months ended March 31, 2006, sales revenue increased \$466 to \$1,646, compared to \$1,180 for the same period during 2005. Revenue was consistent with the prior year.

Production and operating expenses increased \$35,528 to \$59,416 for the three months ended March 31, 2006, from \$23,888 for the same period in 2005. The increase was primarily attributable to the site preparation being conducted on the Company's Gabbs Valley Prospect.

General and administrative expenses increased by \$22,388 to \$65,892 for the three months ended March 31, 2006, from \$43,504 for the same period in 2005. The increase is attributable to an increase in professional fees partially offset by a decrease in rent expense.

There was no depreciation or depletion expense attributable to the three months ended March 31, 2006 and 2005, because the depreciable assets were fully depreciated.

For the three months ended March 31, 2006, interest expense remained at \$1,725 which is the same as for the three months ended March 31, 2005. The Company accrued interest on the Weatherford note in both periods. For the reasons discussed above, net loss increased \$59,719 from \$(65,668) for the three months ended March 31, 2005, to \$(125,387) for the three months ended March 31, 2006.

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#### LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

##### GENERAL

As of March 31, 2006, the Company had \$233,043 of cash on hand. In June 2005, the Company completed a private placement of 5,000,000 shares along with warrants to purchase 1,250,000 shares of its Common Stock for an

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aggregate purchase price of \$500,000. For more information regarding this private placement, see the Company's current report on Form 8-K, which was filed with the SEC on June 9, 2005. The cash from this funding enabled the Company to pay its share of a seismic survey on its Gabbs Valley Prospect, Nevada, which was approximately \$35,000 and will enable the Company to fund its share of a well to be drilled on the Nevada Prospect which is estimated to be \$150,000. After such payment, the Company believes it will have sufficient funds to pay its normal operational costs of approximately \$10,000 per month for the next 12 months. In order to sustain the Company's operations on a long term basis, the Company intends to continue to look for merger opportunities and consider public or private financings. The Company anticipates that its Chief Financial Officer will advance the Company the funds necessary to continue its operations through the next twelve months, if necessary. However, there is no assurance that he will do so.

### ADVANCES FROM RELATED PARTY

Through March 31, 2005, the Company financed its operations primarily through advances made to the Company by the Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust, of which the Company's Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Whitehead, is the trustee. At March 31, 2006 the Company is indebted to the Albert E. Whitehead Living Trust in the amount of \$274,682.

### MATERIAL RISKS

The Company has incurred significant losses from operations and there is no assurance that it will achieve profitability or obtain funds necessary to finance continued operations. For other material risks, see the Company's form 10-KSB for the period ended December 31, 2005, which was filed March 31, 2006.

### FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This quarterly report on Form 10-QSB, including this section, includes certain statements that may be deemed "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of federal securities laws. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, that address activities, events or developments that the Company expects, believes or anticipates will or may occur in the future, including future sources of financing and other possible business developments, are forward-looking statements. Such statements are subject to a number of assumptions, risks and uncertainties and could be affected by a number of different factors, including the Company's failure to secure short and long term financing necessary to sustain and grow its operations, increased competition, changes in the markets in which the Company participates and the technology utilized by the Company and new legislation regarding environmental matters. These risks and other risks that could affect the Company's business are more fully described in reports it files with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including its Form 10-KSB for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005. Actual results may vary materially from the forward-looking statements. The Company undertakes no duty to update any of the forward-looking statements in this Form 10-QSB.

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### Item 3. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

As of the end of the period covered by this report, the Company carried out an evaluation under the supervision of the Company's Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e). Based on this evaluation, the Company's Chief

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Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) has concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report are effective. During the period covered by this report, there was no change in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting that has materially affected or that is reasonably likely to materially affect the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

### PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

#### Item 6. Exhibits

##### a) Exhibits

- 31 Certification of Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and Item 601(b)(31) of Regulation S-B, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (submitted herewith).
- 32 Certification of Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (submitted herewith).

### EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

#### SIGNATURES

In accordance with the requirements of the Exchange Act, the small business issuer caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

EMPIRE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

Date: May 12, 2006

By: /s/ Albert E. Whitehead

\_\_\_\_\_  
Albert E. Whitehead  
Chairman/CEO

#### EXHIBIT INDEX

NO.	DESCRIPTION
31	Certification of Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a)

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promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and Item 601(b)(31) of Regulation S-B, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (submitted herewith).

32	Certification of Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (submitted herewith).
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EXHIBIT 31

### CERTIFICATION

I, Albert E. Whitehead, Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) of Empire Petroleum Corporation, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-QSB of Empire Petroleum Corporation;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the small business issuer as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The small business issuer's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls

and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) for the small business issuer and have;

(a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the small business issuer, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

(b) Evaluated the effectiveness of the small business issuer's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

(c) Disclosed in this report any change in the small business issuer's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the small business issuer's most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the small business issuer's internal control over financial reporting; and

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5. The small business issuer's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the small business issuer's auditors and the audit committee of small business issuer's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

(a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the small business issuer's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial

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information; and

(b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the small business issuer's internal control over financial reporting.

May 12, 2006

/s/ Albert E. Whitehead  
Albert E. Whitehead,  
Chief Executive Officer and  
Principal Financial Officer

EXHIBIT 32

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO  
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,  
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the quarterly report of Empire Petroleum Corporation (the "Company") on Form 10-QSB for the period ending March 31, 2006 as

filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Albert E. Whitehead, Chief Executive Officer (and principal financial officer) of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

May 12, 2006

/s/ Albert E. Whitehead  
Albert E. Whitehead  
Chief Executive Officer and  
Principal Financial Officer