

PACIFIC COAST ENERGY COMPANY RESPONSE TO *PUBLIC CITIZEN* RE:

Trump's Venezuela Deals Open the Door to a California Oil Company With a Troubled Past

KEY POINTS

Scott Y. Wood

In 2019, PCEC was acquired by NewBridge Resources, a partnership owned by California oilman Scott Y. Wood, and K4 Oil.

- Scott W. Wood was terminated as CEO on June 6, 2020. His stake in PCEC was bought out in September 2020.
- Scott Y. Wood has not had an equity stake in PCEC in six years. Any references to his business dealings and/or past behavior are not relevant to PCEC's current management or operations.

Alshair Fiyaz

Alshair Fiyaz is a Belgian investor with interests in shipping, energy, hotels and other businesses. Any other descriptions are gratuitous and irrelevant:

- The fact that Mr. Fiyaz was *accused of insider trading by a convicted felon* more than a decade ago, in a case in which he wasn't a party or witness, is a claim that was wholly unsubstantiated and therefore irrelevant.
- In the jury trial, one of the defendants (Walid Choucair) sought to deflect blame from himself and his co-defendant (Fabiana Abdel-Malek) by claiming that he received tips from Mr. Fiyaz (instead of Ms. Abdel-Malek). The jury found Choucair's claims were rubbish. Both Choucair and Abdel-Malek were convicted of insider dealing and sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment, and their conviction was upheld on all points by the Court of Appeal.
- Mr. Fiyaz has never been questioned (let alone charged) in any matter.
- The fact Mr. Fiyaz's name *appears in the Panama Papers* is not germane. Thousands of people were named in the Panama Papers. Fiyaz's activities referenced in the Panama Papers are completely transparent and wholly above board.

Pacific Coast Oil Trust

In 2012, well before PCEC's current ownership group took over in 2019-20, the company spun off a portion of production royalties into a publicly traded entity called Pacific Coast Oil Trust. The unit holders of the trust were entitled to Net Profit Interests of certain wells in oil fields operated by PCEC.

The trustee is The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company.

After the current group's acquisition of PCEC, the company hired Moss Adams LLP, an accounting firm, to assist in determining the fair value of the future plugging and abandonment costs [asset retirement obligations (ARO)] associated with the West Pico, Orcutt Hill, Orcutt Hill Diatomite, East Coyote, and Sawtelle fields.

September 18, 2026

This estimate came to nearly \$46 million. Based on an independent expert review, and in dialogue with the trustee, PCEC began withholding funds to cover the AROs in 2020.

In turn, the trustee (BoNY) conducted an 8 month due diligence review that also included hiring its own consultant – Martindale Consultants, a provider of analysis and compliance review services to the oil and gas industry – to perform an independent review of the estimated ARO that PCEC provided to the Trustee. **Martindale concluded that the estimates were correct and for PCEC to accrue future plugging and abandonment costs and to deduct the trust share of those costs from proceeds otherwise payable to the Trust.**

Based on PCEC’s estimate of its ARO attributable to the Net Profits Interests, PCEC informed the trust that deductions relating to estimated ARO were likely to eliminate the likelihood of any distributions to Trust unitholders for the foreseeable future.

Unitholders Challenge

In 2022, unit holders in the Trust challenged PCEC’s accounting, alleging the company was sticking the Trust with abandonment costs that company should have paid. A trial court found that the unitholder suit, led by Evergreen, lacked standing, and the claims were ultimately dismissed with prejudice.

Unitholders Proposal to Name New Trustee

Unitholders in the trust also voted to remove BoNY as the trustee and proposed Barclay Leib to serve as acting temporary trustee. According to an SEC filing, Barclay Leib was determined to be unqualified to serve as trustee because he was not “a bank or trust company having combined capital, surplus and undivided profits of at least \$100,000,000”.

Whistleblower Suit

In October 2024, a former PCEC employee sued for whistleblower retaliation, alleging he had faced retaliation after filing complaints with state and federal agencies stating the company “purposefully provided false data to the Trustee and to the Trust’s independent registered public accounting firm regarding Pacific Coast’s operations, including the calculation of its asset retirement obligations.”

Some claims were immediately dismissed. Other claims were heard in a jury trial this month. On 9/11/2026, a jury in the courtroom of U.S. District Judge Josephine Staton in the Central District of California found in favor of the defendants (PCEC), stating that no evidence was provided to constitute a violation of 18 U.S.C §§ 1341, 1343, 1344, any SEC rule or regulation, or federal law related to fraud against unitholders.

Environmental Record

The environmental record of PCEC prior to 2019 is not relevant and does not represent the company’s current approach to operations or environmental protections.

Cardiff Tower

September 18, 2026

PCEC operates a drilling site in the Pico-Robertson neighborhood of Los Angeles. The site (called Cardiff Tower) was built by Occidental Petroleum in 1966 and designed to resemble a synagogue to allay the concerns of the largely Orthodox Jewish community living in the neighborhood. Recent coverage of the site describes it as “a pleasant monument to timely truce between corporate interests and a self-sustaining community.”

Phillips 66

Phillips 66 was one of PCEC’s clients who bought its production. Phillips 66’s decision to convert its San Francisco refinery into sustainable fuels resulted in closing the Santa Maria refinery and its associated pipeline network. This was a business decision for Phillips 66 – not a specific reflection of its relationship with PCEC.