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NANCY HENDRICKS APR - 3 1995

CR2E031 (1-89)



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE Sandra B. Mortham Secretary of State

March 14, 1995

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**CT CORPORATION SYSTEM** 

TALLAHASSEE, FL

SUBJECT: MERIDIAN TRUST COMPANY

Ref. Number: W95000005667

We have received your document for MERIDIAN TRUST COMPANY and your check(s) totaling \$122.50. However, the enclosed document has not been filed and is being returned for the following correction(s):

Written approval and clearance of the terms BANK, BANKER, BANC, BANKING, TRUST COMPANY, BANCSHARES, SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS BANK, or CREDIT UNION must be obtained from the Division of Banking and Finance, pursuant to section 655.922(2a), Florida Statutes. The address is:

Division of Banking Director's Office Suite 1401, The Capitol Tallahassee, FL 32399-0350 (904) 488-1410.

Please return your document, along with a copy of this letter, within 60 days or your filing will be considered abandoned.

If you have any questions concerning the filing of your document, please call (904) 487-6903.

Nancy Hendricks Corporate Specialist

Letter Number: 895A00011362

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Division of Corporations - P.O. BOX 6327 - Tallahassee, Florida 32314

CR2E042



#### FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE Sandra B. Mortham Secretary of State

March 20, 1995

CT CORPORATION SYSTEM

TALLAHASSEE, FL

SUBJECT: MERIDIAN COMPANY Ref. Number: W9500005667

Meridian Resources Corporation

We have received your document for MERI HAN-COMPANY and your check(s) totaling \$122.50. However, the enclosed document has not been filed and is being returned for the following correction(s):

The name designated in your document is unavailable since it is the same as, or it is not distinguishable from the name of an existing entity. Simply adding "of Florida" or "Florida" to the end of an entity name DOES NOT constitute a difference. Please select a new name and make the substitution in all appropriate places. One or more words may be added to make the name distinguishable from the one presently on file.

When the document is resubmitted, please return a copy of this letter to ensure that your document is properly handled.

If you have any questions about the availability of a particular name, please call (904) 488-9000.

Please return your document, along with a copy of this letter, within 60 days or your filing will be considered abandoned.

If you have any questions concerning the filing of your document, please call (904) 487-6903.

Nancy Hendricks Corporate Specialist

Letter Number: 895A00011362

Walk in 3.00
Will wait made

Division of Corporations - P.O. BOX 6327 - Tallahassee, Florida 32314

CB2E042

### ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF

#### MERIDIAN RESOURCES CORPORATION

The undersigned, acting as incorporator of a Florida corporation under the Florida Business Corporation Act, Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, hereby adopts the following Articles of Incorporation for such Corporation:

### ARTICLE I

The name of the Corporation is Meridian Resources Corporation.

#### ARTICLE II PRINCIPAL OFFICE AND MAILING ADDRESS

The address of the Corporation's principal office is 2701 N. Rocky Point Drive, Suite 525, Tampa, Florida 33607 and the mailing address of the Corporation is 2701 M. Rocky Point Drive, Suite 525, Tampa, Florida 33607.

#### ARTICLE III PURPOSE

The Corporation is organized for the purpose of transacting any and all lawful business for which corporations may be incorporated under the laws of Florida.

#### ARTICLE IV CAPITAL STOCK

The Corporation is authorized to issue 10,000 shares of common stock, One Cent (\$.01) par value per share.

#### ARTICLE V INITIAL REGISTERED AGENT AND OFFICE

The name of the initial registered agent of the Corporation and the street address of the initial registered office of the Corporation are as follows:

Name

Address

John W. Puffer, III

101 E. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 2500 Tampa, Florida 33602

#### ARTICLE VI INITIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Corporation shall have initially two directors to nold office until the first annual meeting of shareholders and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified, or until their earlier resignation, removal from office or death. The number of directors may be either

increased or decreased from time to time in accordance with the Bylaws of the Corporation. The name and address of the initial director of the Corporation are:

Name

Address

Lilies R. Hooi

2701 N. Rocky Point Drive, Suite 525

Tampa, Florida 33607

Gerard J. Curley

5960 Central Avenue, Suite F St. Petersburg, Florida 33733

ARTICLE VII INCORPORATOR

The name and address of the person signing these Articles as Incorporator are:

<u>Name</u>

Address

John W. Puffer, III

101 E. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 2500 Tampa, Florida 33602

ARTICLE VIII INDEMNIFICATION

The Corporation shall indemnify any person who is or was a Director, Officer, employee, or agent of the Corporation or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a Director, Officer, employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed these Articles of Incorporation this 14th day of March, 1995.

John W. Puffer, III, Inverporator

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 14th day of March, 1995, by John W. Puffer, III, an individual who is personally known to me and did not take an oath.

JUOTTH A. JAGGIE
MY COMMISSION & CC 178836
EDTHES: March 13, 1996
Bonded Thru Notary Public Underwriters

Votary Public

Print Name:

My Commission Expires:

## CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION REGISTERED AGENT/REGISTERED OFFICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 607.0501, Florida Statutes, the undersigned corporation, organized under the laws of the State of Florida, submits the following statement in designating the registered office/registered agent, in the State of Florida.

1. The name of the corporation is Meridian Resources Corporation

2. The name and address of the registered agent and office is:

John W. Puffer, III 101 E. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 2500 Tampa, Florida 33602

SIGNATURE:

Incorporator

DATE:

March 14, 1995

HAVING BEEN NAMED AS REGISTERED AGENT AND TO ACCEPT SERVICE OF PROCESS FOR THE ABOVE STATED CORPORATION AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED IN THIS CERTIFICATE, I HEREBY ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT AS REGISTERED AGENT AND AGREE TO ACT IN THIS CAPACITY. I FURTHER AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ALL STATUTES RELATING TO THE PROPER AND COMPLETE PERFORMANCE OF MY DUTIES, AND I AM FAMILIAR WITH AND ACCEPT THE OBLIGATION OF MY POSITION AS REGISTERED AGENT.

SIGNATURE:

ohn W. Puffer, III

DATE:

March 14, 1995