

Lucero Energy Corp. Announces Third Quarter 2022 Record Financial & Operating Results

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CALGARY, Nov. 8, 2022 - [Lucero Energy Corp.](#) ("Lucero" or the "Company") (TSXV: LOU) (OTCQB: PSHIF) is pleased to announce financial and operating results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2022. The associated Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") and unaudited financial statements as at and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2022 can be found at www.sedar.com or www.luceroCorp.com.

All dollar amounts in this news release are stated in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

Three months ended	Nine months ended			
September 30	June 30	September 30	September 30	September 30
2022	2022	2021	2022	2021
Financial				
Net income	\$41,148	\$35,017	\$21,137	\$110,116
Net income per share	\$0.06	\$0.05	\$0.04	\$0.17
Net income per share diluted	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.04	\$0.17
Funds flow	\$41,148	\$35,017	\$21,137	\$110,116
Funds flow, excluding transaction costs	\$41,148	\$35,017	\$21,137	\$112,216
Funds flow per share	\$0.06	\$0.05	\$0.04	\$0.17
Funds flow per share diluted	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.04	\$0.17
Adjusted EBITDA	\$43,100	\$36,644	\$24,254	\$115,504
Adjusted EBITDA per share	\$0.07	\$0.06	\$0.05	\$0.18
Adjusted EBITDA per share diluted	\$0.06	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.17
Operating activities	\$43,791	\$44,634	\$23,884	\$130,667
Operating activities	\$25,824	\$25,824	\$14,954	\$99,263
Operating activities per share	\$0.05	\$0.04	\$0.03	\$0.10
Operating activities per share diluted	\$0.04	\$0.04	\$0.03	\$0.09
Exploration				

and
development

Expenses (1)	\$7,354	\$20,048	\$43,364	\$32,309
Property acquisitions	\$8,651	-	\$8,858	-
Debt (1)	\$107,451	\$185,864	\$99,192	\$185,864
Common shares outstanding, end of period	661,725	521,032	662,411	521,032
Weighted average shares (basic)	660,146	521,032	644,270	401,671
Weighted average shares (diluted)	677,361	535,728	666,014	416,367
Operations				
Production				
Oil	6,489	8,122	6,644	6,791
Gas	10,439	11,384	11,866	11,095
Condensate	2,667	1,794	2,206	1,787
Other liquids	10,896	11,814	10,828	10,427
Boe equivalent (Boe)				
Oil	\$139.79	\$85.44	\$127.26	\$78.94
Gas	\$6.51	\$1.53	\$6.14	\$1.24
Condensate	\$23.48	\$16.68	\$26.16	\$12.99
Other liquids				
Boe equivalent	\$95.55	\$62.75	\$90.14	\$54.96
Operating netback				
Operating netback	\$38.74	\$23.34	\$41.61	\$20.09
Operating netback (prior to hedging)	\$59.17	\$37.02	\$55.79	\$31.56
Funds flowing (1)	\$35.31	\$19.45	\$37.25	\$16.87

Management uses these non-GAAP financial measures to analyze operating performance, leverage and capital raising activity. These measures do not have a standardized meaning under GAAP and therefore may not be comparable with the calculation of similar measures for other companies. See Non-GAAP Measurements Related in this document for additional information.

MESSAGE TO SHAREHOLDERS

During the third quarter of 2022, Lucero was sharply focused on executing the Company's long-term strategy to realize

growth supported by enhanced financial flexibility and sustainability. The Company achieved record quarterly funds flow¹ from an active capital program that drove strong operating performance in the period, complemented by a favourable commodity price environment. These factors enabled Lucero to direct free funds flow¹ to strengthening the balance sheet and reducing net debt by 47% relative to the same period in 2021.

Lucero's third quarter 2022 performance highlights include:

- Average production of 10,904 boepd compared to 10,896 boepd in the second quarter of 2022 and 11,814 boepd in the third quarter of 2021;
- Record quarterly funds flow¹ of \$41.5 million, a 19% increase over \$35.0 million in the previous quarter and 96% over \$21.1 million in the same period in 2021;
- Funds flow per share¹ of \$0.06 compared to \$0.05 in the second quarter of 2022 and \$0.04 in the third quarter of 2021; net income per share of \$0.05 in the period, compared to \$0.03 for the same period last year;
- Operating netback¹ prior to hedging averaged \$52.24 per Boe compared to \$59.17 in the second quarter of 2022 and \$59.17 per Boe in the third quarter of 2021;
- Invested capital of \$24.9 million in exploration and development expenditures¹, representing a prudent payout ratio of 60% on funds flow¹ of \$41.5 million; and
- Net debt¹ reduced to \$99.2 million at September 30, 2022, a decline of 8% from \$107.5 million at June 30, 2022 and a decline of 47% from \$185.9 million at September 30, 2021.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

During the three months ended September 30, 2022, Lucero invested capital of \$24.9 million, largely directed to drilling and completion of net) operated wells and 0.03 net non-operated wells, for a total of 3.99 net wells drilled. Subsequent to the end of the quarter, the Company commenced the completion of 1.98 net wells, with the corresponding production anticipated to come on-stream by the end of 2022.

Lucero's production volumes averaged 10,904 boepd in the third quarter, in-line with 10,896 boepd in the second quarter of 2022, a decrease from 11,814 boepd during the same period in 2021. The Company has been successful in moderating Lucero's production decline rate in order to support a more sustainable business model, and will continue to focus on initiatives that will mitigate declines going forward.

The combination of steady production volumes coupled with stronger operating netbacks¹ led to Lucero generating \$41.5 million of funds flow¹ during the third quarter of 2022, of which \$24.9 million was invested in capital expenditures, resulting in a conservative payout ratio of 60%. Incremental funds flow¹ was directed to debt repayment and the continued strengthening of the balance sheet. As a result, Lucero exited the third quarter of 2022 with net debt¹ of \$99.2 million, a decrease of 8% from the second quarter of 2022 and a reduction of 47% compared to the same period in 2021.

CAPITAL BUDGET AND PRODUCTION GUIDANCE

By directing capital to higher rate of return, lower-risk light oil opportunities across the North Dakota Bakken/Three Forks oil base, Lucero is positioned to generate disciplined, long-term sustainable growth, while protecting and further enhancing the Company's strong financial position. Based on strong operational performance to date in 2022 and an improved commodity price environment, Lucero remains well positioned to deliver on the Company's full year 2022 guidance for capital expenditures and production.

During the first nine months of 2022, Lucero invested \$43 million of a \$59 million (US\$45 million) annual capital budget and approximately \$16 million to be deployed through the fourth quarter. The Company is maintaining previous 2022 production guidance, which anticipates average volumes ranging between 10,500 - 11,000 boepd (~80% light oil and natural gas liquids) at an exit rate of 11,000 boepd (~80% light oil and natural gas liquids). Lucero anticipates announcing the Company's 2023 capital budget and production guidance in mid-December.

OUTLOOK AND SUSTAINABILITY

Lucero has a solid growth platform of lower-risk, light oil assets located in the heart of the prolific Bakken/Three Forks oil base. These assets are characterized by compelling rates of return driven by robust operating netbacks¹, strong production rates and estimated recoveries. With a corporate production decline profile estimated at approximately 30% for 2022, coupled with strong operating netbacks¹, the Company's assets yield significant free funds flow¹ in the current commodity price environment.

this high-quality asset base, the Company is well positioned to create value through a disciplined long-term focused growth strategy. Consistent with this strategy, Lucero intends to allocate free funds flow¹ to continued debt repayment, position the Company to realize ongoing expansion of production levels, reserves values and the broader asset base.

¹ See "Non-GAAP Measures" within this press release.

Lucero has developed trust and credibility as a good corporate citizen who provides a platform for long-term success as its business plan and vision are executed. Sustainability of the business includes prioritizing the Company's overall social responsibility, commitment to the environment and supporting strong values and relationships in the workplace as well as the communities where Lucero operates.

The Company is proud to highlight the following key operational and financial attributes:

Production Guidance	2022E Average: 10,500 - 11,000 boepd (~80% light oil and natural gas liquids) 2022E Exit: 11,000 boepd (~80% light oil and natural gas liquids)
Total Proved plus Probable Reserves ⁽¹⁾	~72 MMboe (85% light oil and liquids)
Development Inventory	>40 net undrilled locations
Sustainability Assumptions	Corporate Production Decline: 30% (2022E) Capital Efficiency ^{(2),(3)} : ~C\$17,000/boepd (IP 365)
2022 Capital Program ⁽³⁾	US\$45 million (~C\$59 million)
Net Debt ¹ as at September 30, 2022	C\$99.2 million
Common Shares Outstanding (basic)	662 million

⁽¹⁾ All reserves information in this press release are gross Company reserves, meaning Lucero's working interest reserves before deductions of royalties and before consideration of Lucero's royalty interests. The reserve information for Lucero in the foregoing table is derived from the independent engineering report effective December 31, 2021 prepared by NSAI evaluating the oil, NGL and natural gas reserves attributable to all of the Company's properties.

⁽²⁾ Capital efficiency is a measure of all-in corporate forecast capital expenditures divided by forecast production additions.

⁽³⁾ Assumes a foreign exchange rate of US\$1.00 = C\$1.31.

READER ADVISORIES

Forward Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements and forward-looking information (collectively "forward-looking information") within the meaning of applicable securities laws relating to the Company's plans, strategy, business model, objectives and other aspects of Lucero's anticipated future operations and financial, operating and drilling and development results, including, expected future production, production mix, reserves, drilling inventory, net debt, funds flow, operating netbacks, decline rate and decline profile, product mix, capital expenditure program, capital efficiencies, and commodity addition, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this press release contains forward-looking information regarding Lucero's anticipation of delivering on 2022 capital budget and production guidance; anticipated average and exit production; available free funds flow, management's view of the characteristics and quality of the opportunities available to the Company; the Company's intention to allocate free funds flow to debt repayments; and other matters ancillary or incidental to the foregoing.

Forward-looking information typically uses words such as "anticipate", "believe", "project", "target", "guidance", "expect", "goal", "plan", "intend" or similar words suggesting future outcomes, statements that actions, events or conditions "may", "would", "could" or "will" be taken or occur in the future. The forward-looking information is based on certain key expectations and assumptions made by Lucero's management, including expectations concerning prevailing commodity prices, exchange rates, interest rates, applicable royalty rates and tax laws; capital efficiencies; decline rates; future production rates and estimates of operating costs; performance of existing and future wells; reserve and resource volumes; anticipated timing and results of capital expenditures; the success obtained in drilling new wells; the sufficiency of budgeted capital expenditures in carrying out planned activities; the timing, location and extent of future drilling operations; the state of the economy and the exploration and production business; results of operations; performance; business prospects and opportunities; the availability and cost of financing, labor and services; the impact of increasing competition; the impact of inflation on costs and expenses; ability to market oil and natural gas successfully and Lucero's ability to access capital. Statements relating to "reserves" are also deemed to be forward looking statements, as they involve the implied assessment, based on certain estimates and assumptions, that the reserves described exist in the quantities predicted or estimated and that the reserves can be profitably produced in the future.

Although the Company believes that the expectations and assumptions on which such forward-looking information is based is reasonable, undue reliance should not be placed on the forward-looking information because Lucero can give no assurance that they will prove to be correct. Since forward-looking information addresses future events and conditions, by its very nature it involves inherent risks and uncertainties. The Company's actual results, performance or achievement could differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, the forward-looking information and, accordingly, no assurance can be given that any events anticipated by the forward-looking information will transpire or occur, or if any of them do so, what benefits that Company will derive there from. Management has included the above summary of assumptions and risks related to forward-looking information provided in this press release in order to provide security holders with a more complete picture of Lucero's future operations and such information may not be appropriate for other purposes. Readers are cautioned that the foregoing lists of factors are not exhaustive. Additional information on these and other factors that could affect Lucero's operations or financial results are included in reports on file with applicable securities regulatory authorities and may be accessed on the SEDAR website (www.sedar.com). These forward-looking statements are made as of the date of this press release and the Company disclaims any intent or obligation to update publicly any forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, events or results or otherwise, other than as required by applicable securities laws.

Non-GAAP Measures

This document includes non-GAAP measures commonly used in the oil and natural gas industry. These non-GAAP measures do not have a standardized meaning prescribed by International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS", or alternatively, "Canadian GAAP") and therefore may not be comparable with the calculation of similar measures by other companies. For additional details, definitions and reconciliations of these and other non-GAAP measures, see the Company's Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2022.

"Funds flow" represents cash from operating activities prior to changes in non-cash operating working capital, including depreciation, finance expenses, and is a measure of the Company's ability to generate funds to service its debt and other obligations to fund its operations, without the impact of changes in non-cash working capital, which can vary based solely on timing of accounts receivable and accounts payable. "Funds flow, excluding transaction related costs" represents funds flow prior to transaction related costs. "Funds flow netback per Boe" represents funds flow divided by production volumes for the corresponding period, and is presented including and excluding transaction related costs. "Funds flow per share" represents funds flow divided by the basic weighted average shares outstanding for the corresponding period.

"Net debt" represents total liabilities, excluding decommissioning obligation, deferred tax liability, lease liability and financial derivative liability, less current assets, excluding financial derivative assets. Lucero believes net debt is a key measure of the Company's liquidity position at a point in time. Net debt is not a standardized measure and may not be comparable to net debt measures for other entities.

"Operating netback" represents petroleum and natural gas revenue, plus or minus any realized gain or loss on financial derivatives, less royalties, lease operating costs, workover expense, production taxes, and transportation expense. "Operating netback prior to hedging" represents operating netback prior to any realized gain or loss on financial derivatives. "Operating netback" and "Operating netback prior to hedging" is also presented on a per Boe basis by dividing by production volumes for the corresponding period. Lucero believes that in addition to net income (loss) and cash provided by operating activities, operating netback and operating netback prior to hedging are useful supplemental measures as they assist in the determination of the Company's operating performance, leverage, and liquidity. Operating netback is commonly used by investors to assess the performance of oil and gas properties and the possible impact of future commodity price changes on energy producers.

"Exploration and development expenditures" represents additions to property, plant and equipment in the cash flow used in investing activities, less capitalized general and administrative expenses. Exploration and development expenditures is a measure of the Company's investments in property, plant and equipment.

"Free funds flow" represents funds flow, less exploration and development expenditures. Management considers this measure to be useful in determining its available discretionary cash to fund capital expenditures, acquisitions or returns of capital to shareholders.

"Payout ratio" represents exploration and development expenditures as a percentage of funds flow.

Oil and Gas Disclosures

The term "boe" or barrels of oil equivalent may be misleading, particularly if used in isolation. A boe conversion ratio of six thousand cubic feet of natural gas to one barrel of oil equivalent (6 Mcf: 1 bbl) is based on an energy equivalency conversion method primarily applicable at the burner tip and does not represent a value equivalency at the wellhead. Additionally, given that the value ratio based on the current price of crude oil, as compared to natural gas, is significantly different from the energy equivalency of 6:1; utilizing a conversion ratio of 6:1 may be misleading as an indication of value.

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This press release discloses drilling locations in three categories: (i) proved locations; (ii) probable locations; and (iii) unbooked locations. Proved locations and probable locations are derived from the reserves evaluation prepared by NSAI as of December 31, 2021 and account for drilling locations that have associated proved and/or probable reserves, as applicable. Unbooked locations are internal estimates prepared by a qualified reserves evaluator based on Lucero's prospective acreage and an assumption as to the number of wells that can be drilled per section based on industry practice and internal review. Unbooked locations do not have attributed reserves. Of the 42 net drilling locations identified herein, 24 are proved locations, 6 are probable locations and 12 are unbooked locations. Unbooked locations have been identified by management as an estimation of our multi-year drilling activities based on evaluation of applicable geologic, seismic, engineering, production and reserves information. There is no certainty that Lucero will drill all unbooked drilling locations and, if drilled, there is no certainty that such locations will result in additional oil and gas reserves or production. The drilling locations on which we actually drill wells will ultimately depend upon the availability of capital, regulatory approvals, seasonal restrictions, oil and natural gas prices, costs, actual drilling results, additional reservoir information that is obtained and other factors.

While certain of the unbooked drilling locations have been derisked by drilling existing wells in relative close proximity to such unbooked drilling locations, some of other unbooked drilling locations are farther away from existing wells where management has less information about the characteristics of the reservoir and therefore there is more uncertainty whether wells will be drilled in such locations and, if drilled, there is more uncertainty that such wells will result in additional oil and gas reserves or production.

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