



**COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE  
FIRST DISTRICT OF TEXAS AT HOUSTON**

**ORDER**

Appellate case name: MP Gulf of Mexico, LLC v. Total E&P USA, Inc.

Appellate case number: 01-20-00519-CV

Trial court case number: 2020-29728

Trial court: 165th District Court of Harris County

Appellant, MP Gulf of Mexico, LLC, has filed an interlocutory appeal of two July 13, 2020 trial court orders, including a trial court order denying appellant’s “Motion to Compel Arbitration,” and a trial court order granting the “Motion to Stay AAA Arbitration” of appellee, Total E&P USA, Inc. Appellant has filed an opposed “Emergency Motion for Stay Pending Appeal,” asking that we stay the trial court proceedings pending resolution of this appeal.<sup>1</sup>

We **grant** appellant’s motion to stay the trial court proceedings. All proceedings, except as provided in this order, in the trial court in Cause No. 2020-29728, *Total E&P USA, Inc. v. MP Gulf of Mexico, LLC* are **stayed** pending resolution of this appeal or further order of this Court.

In connection with its emergency motion to stay, appellant has also filed a “Motion to File Under Seal Unredacted Copy of Emergency Motion to Stay Pending Appeal.” In this motion, appellant requests that this Court “maintain under seal the unredacted version” of its emergency motion to stay, stating that the agreements between the parties which form the basis of the appeal “contain sensitive commercial and technical business information.”

Requests to seal documents are governed by Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 76a. *See* TEX. R. CIV. P. 76a. Rule 76a provides no authority for an appellate court to make the findings necessary to decide a motion to seal. *See Env’tl. Procedures, Inc. v. Guidry*, 282 S.W.3d 602, 636 (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 2009, pet. denied) (“On its face, Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 76a, entitled ‘Sealing Court Records,’ does not give appellate courts the authority to find the necessary facts and to determine motions to seal on appeal,

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<sup>1</sup> Appellant filed a redacted version of this motion.

