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December 14, 2009

Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
The Chancery Building
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801
Denver, CO 80203

Attn: Mr. David Neslin, Director

RE: **Request to the Director for 318A.a Surface Location Exception (Outside 318A Drilling Window)**
Request to the Director for 318A.c Twinning Location Exception
LETTERLY USX AB23-99HZ
Niobrara New Drill
Township 7 North, Range 64 West, 6th P.M.
Section 23: NW/4NW/4: 350' FNL & 250' FWL (Surface Location)
Weld County, Colorado

Mr. Neslin:

Noble Energy Inc. (NEI) is planning to drill the above mentioned well to the Niobrara formation.

The surface location of NEI's proposed well has been staked outside of the 318Aa drilling window. The location is being permitted as an exception location. NEI has obtained written permission in a consent letter from the surface owner.

Under the Revised Rule 318A any new twinning well to be located within 50' of an existing well. The surface location of NEI's proposed well has been staked approximately 4,453' from the nearest oil and gas well. Noble has obtained permission, contained in a consent letter, from the surface owner.

Thank you for your attention to the enclosed. Noble respectfully requests that the COGCC review the enclosed information and approve the requested exception location waivers and Application for Permit to Drill the captioned well.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kate Shirley'.

Kate Shirley
Regulatory Specialist
Noble Energy Inc.