



DJ Basin
United States Production Operations

P. O. Box 3487
Houston, Texas 77253-348
5555 San Felipe
Houston, TX 77056-2725
Telephone 713/296-4662
Fax: 713/513-4124
Email: gjhodge@MarathonOil.com

February 7, 2011

Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
1120 Lincoln St, Ste 801
Denver, CO 80203
Attn: David Neslin

Re: Request to the Director for 318A.a. Surface Hole Mineral Exception (Outside 318A.a. Window)
Request to the Director for 318A.c Twinning location Exception

French Lake 4-63-36-1B
SWSW Section 36, Township 4 North, Range 63 West, 6th P.M.
470' FSL 985' FWL
Weld County, Colorado

Mr. Neslin:

Marathon Oil Company ("Marathon") is proposing to drill the French Lake 4-63-36-1B well which is located 470' FSL 985' FWL Section 36, Township 4 North, Range 63 West, 6th P.M. to bottom hole location ("BHL") 460' FSL 460' FEL Section 36, Township 4 North, Range 63 West, 6th P.M. Marathon intends to test the Niobrara Formation.

The surface hole location ("SHL") of Marathon's proposed horizontal well is outside of the 318A.a. drilling window. Rule 318A.a. designates five "drilling windows" per quarter section of land in the Greater Wattenberg Area (GWA) – 400'x400' boxes in the center of each quarter/quarter section, and an 800'x800' box in the center of the quarter section.

According to Rule 318A(c), any new twinning well to be located within 50' of an existing well requires consent to the exception signed by the surface owner. The surface locations of Marathon's proposed wells (French Lake 4-63-36-1A & French Lake 4-63-36-1B) have been staked approximately 1633' from each other. It is Marathon's intention to only drill one of these wells in Section 36.

Marathon respectfully requests approval of the exception location.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Walls', with a stylized, cursive script.

Anna Walls
Regulatory Compliance Representative
Marathon Oil Company