

Savage and Savage *Environmental*

practical solutions for environmental issues

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September 14, 2011

Jacob Rice
Noble Energy, Inc.
804 Grand Avenue
Platteville, Colorado 80651

RE: Noble Energy, Inc., Romero G03-19 and G03-20 Drill Pad, Preliminary Wetland and Wildlife Investigation

Dear Mr. Rice:

Savage and Savage conducted a preliminary wetland and wildlife investigation for the Romero G03-19 and G03-20 drill pad on September 13, 2011. The site is located southeast of the intersection of Weld County Roads 50 and 43, west of Lower Latham Reservoir. The site is accessed by proceeding south from Greeley on U.S. Highway 85 to Weld County Road 50 (La Salle), east on Weld County Road 50 to Weld County Road 43, south on Weld County Road 43 for approximately 0.5 miles to the Romero homestead, then east past the north side of the homestead to the proposed well pad. The well pad is surrounded by hayfields, cropland, and pasture on the north, south, and west; and by Lower Latham Reservoir to the east. The site is located in Section 3, Township 4 North, Range 65 West of the Sixth Prime Meridian, Weld County, Colorado (Noble Energy Romero G03-19, -20 Wells General Location Map).

The area where the drill pad is located is mesic pasture with the dominant plant species smooth brome, crested wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, puncturevine, and kochia. There is no hydrophytic vegetation, soils, or hydrology present at the proposed site. No further investigations for wetlands or waters of the United States are required for this proposed project location.

A review of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission wildlife map was conducted. Based on the COGCC mapping and our observations, an active bald eagle nest is located along the southeast shore of Lower Latham Reservoir. COGCC identifies sensitive wildlife habitat (bald eagle roost) along the northwest boundary of the reservoir.

The bald eagle nest is 1.25 miles from the proposed drill site. The Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors (Gerald R. Craig, Colorado Division of Wildlife updated December 19, 2002) recommends seasonal restrictions to human encroachment within 0.5 mile radius of active bald eagle nests from October 15 through July 31. The 1.25 mile distance between the nest and proposed well pad exceeds any requirements for seasonal restrictions for the bald eagle.

The area identified as bald eagle roost along the northwest boundary of the reservoir is within 0.5 miles of the proposed drill site. The bald eagle roost designation is not defined by the COGCC, nor addressed in the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) recommendations above. Our knowledge of the area and character of bald eagles indicates that bald eagles likely utilize trees along the perimeter of Lower Latham Reservoir when they are present in the area, however as the CDOW identifies no seasonal or distance restrictions for roosts, there is no applicable restriction.

The Lower Latham Reservoir area is host to numerous bird species that use the reservoir for feeding and resting during migration periods, as well as nesting and foraging in the spring and summer. In order to avoid any disturbance to migratory birds or their nests we recommend no human encroachment from April 1 through July 15. Drilling operations should be conducted from July 15 through March 31.

If you have any questions or require further information about the Romero G03-19, -20
drill sites please contact me.

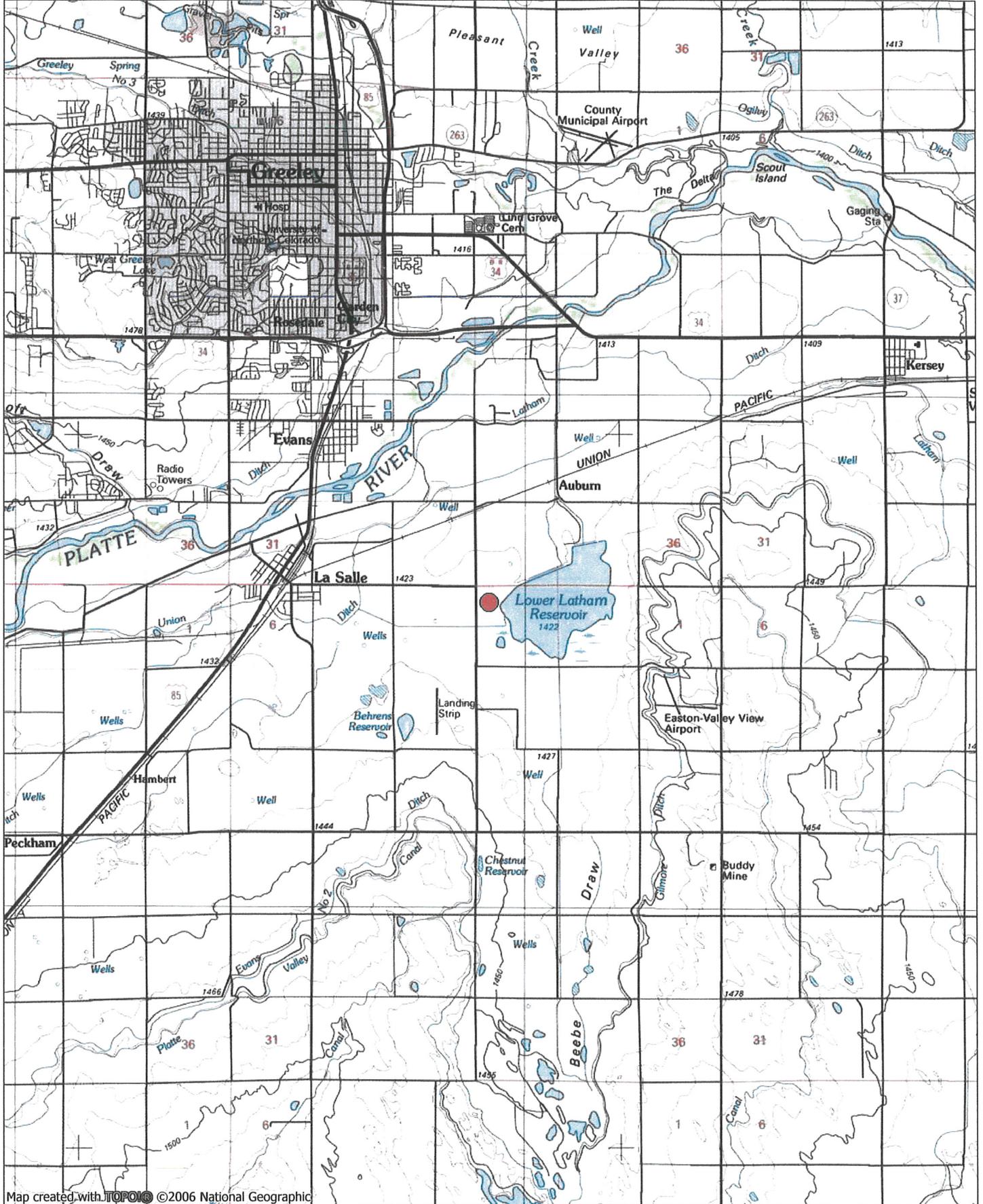
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edith Savage". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

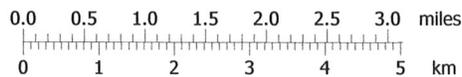
Edith Savage
Principal

attachment: Noble Energy Romero G03-19, -20 Wells General Location Map

Noble Energy Romero G03-19, -20 Wells General Location Map



Map created with TOPO! © 2006 National Geographic



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