

STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor
Christopher E. Urbina, MD, MPH
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

February 8, 2012

Mr. David Neslin, Director COGCC
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Consultation for the Noble Energy proposed variance request to Rule 603.a.(1) Form 2A #400218817

Dear Mr. Neslin:

This letter describes CDPHE's consultation for a variance to COGCC Rule 603.a.(1) submitted by Noble Energy for the Union Colony well, well numbered 126-01, located in Section 26 Township 6N Range 66W in Weld County. This rule establishes setback for drilling and well serving operations, stating that "at the time of initial drilling of the well, the wellhead shall be located a distance of one hundred and fifty (150) feet or one and one half (1-1/2) times the height of the derrick, whichever is greater, from a building unit, public road, major above utility or railroad."

Noble Energy is requesting a surface location 139 feet from a major above ground utility. They plan to use drilling rig with a derrick height a maximum of 76 feet. Since, the 1.5 times the derrick height is only 114 feet; it should not encounter the nearby utility line in the event it fell. CDPHE further understands that no building unit, road or railroad is located within 150 feet of the proposed location.

CDPHE believes that no additional conditions of approval are necessary for this request. CDPHE reserves the right to consult on any future variance requests from rules this agency may consult on (pursuant to COGCC Rule 306) within this location. If you have questions regarding this recommendation or discussion would be helpful, please contact me at (303) 692-3662.

Sincerely,

Kent Kuster
Oil and Gas Liaison
CDPHE

ec: Jeff Lawrence, Director DEHS, CDPHE
Curtis Rueter, Environmental Manager, Noble Energy
Bruce Barker, LGD, Weld County