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March 1, 2012

Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission  
The Chancery Building  
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801  
Denver, CO 80203  
Attn: Mr. Thom Kerr, Acting Director

RE: **Request to the Director for 318A.a Surface Location Exception (Outside 318A Drilling Window)**  
**WELLS RANCH AA12-68-1HN**  
Niobrara New Drill  
Township 6 North, Range 63 West, 6th P.M.  
Section 12: NE/4NE/4: 884' FNL & 216' FEL (Surface Location)  
Weld County, Colorado

Dear Mr. Kerr:

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

The surface location of NEI's proposed well has been staked outside of the 318A.a drilling window. The location is being permitted as an exception location. NEI has obtained written permission contained in a waiver 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,

Susan Miller  
Regulatory Analyst III  
Noble Energy Inc.