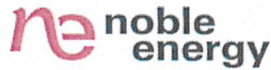


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March 1, 2013

Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission  
The Chancery Building  
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801  
Denver, CO 80203  
Attn: Mr. Matt Lepore, 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**  
**Request to the Director for 603a.2 Property Line Exception**  
**WELLS RANCH USX AA13-69-1HN**  
Niobrara New Drill  
Township 6 North, Range 62 West, 6th P.M.  
Section 18: NW/4NW/4: 977' FNL & 65' FWL (Surface Location)  
Township 6 North, Range 63 West, 6th P.M.  
Section 13: NE/4NE/4: 989' FNL & 729' FEL (Begin Production Location)  
Section 14: NE/4NE/4: 990' FNL & 205' FEL (Bottom Hole Location)  
Weld County, Colorado

Dear Director:

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 in a waiver from the surface owner.

Under the Revised Rule 318A.c any new twinning well is to be located within 50' of an existing well. The surface location of NEI's proposed well has been staked approximately 150' from the nearest oil and gas well. Noble has obtained permission, contained in a waiver, from the surface owner.

The surface location of NEI's proposed well has been staked at a location approximately 65' from a surface property line. As prescribed by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission ("COGCC") Rule 603.a.(2), Noble has obtained a waiver of said Rule 603.a.(2) from the affected surface owner. A copy of this waiver is attached for your consideration.

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 that reads 'Mari Clark'.

Mari Clark  
Regulatory Analyst II  
Noble Energy Inc.