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February 25, 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
WELLS RANCH USX AA27-69-1HN
Niobrara New Drill
Township 6 North, Range 63 West, 6th P.M.
Section 27: SW/4NW/4: 1369' FNL & 221' FWL (Surface Location)
Township 6 North, Range 63 West, 6th P.M.
Section 27: NW/4NW/4: 334' FNL & 670' FWL (Begin Production Location)
Section 27: NE/4NE/4: 330' FNL & 150' 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 774' from the nearest oil and gas well. Noble has obtained 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 aforementioned 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.