

BEFORE THE OIL & GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
NOBLE ENERGY INC. FOR AN ORDER )  
ESTABLISHING ONE (1) 560-ACRE )  
WELLBORE SPACING UNIT FOR ONE (1) )  
HORIZONTAL WELL IN THE NIOBRARA )  
FORMATION FOR SECTIONS 9, 10, 15, and )  
16, TOWNSHIP 4 NORTH, RANGE 64 WEST, )  
6<sup>th</sup> P.M., IN THE WATTENBERG FIELD, WELD )  
COUNTY, COLORADO )

Cause No. 407

Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION

COMES NOW Noble Energy, Inc. (referred to herein as "Applicant"), by and through its undersigned attorneys, and makes application to the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission of the State of Colorado ("Commission"), for an order establishing one (1) 560-acre wellbore spacing unit for the drilling of one (1) horizontal well for production of oil, gas, and associated hydrocarbons from the Niobrara Formation underlying Section 9: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 10: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 15: W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ , and Section 16: E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ , in Township 4 North, Range 64 West, 6<sup>th</sup> P.M. Weld County, Colorado ("Application Lands"). In support thereof, the Applicant states and alleges as follows:

1. Applicant is a corporation duly authorized to conduct business in the State of Colorado.
2. Applicant owns substantial portion of the leasehold interests on the Application Lands.

3. On February 19, 1992, the Commission issued Order No. 407-87 (amended August 20, 1993), which among other things, established 80-acre drilling and spacing units for the production of oil and/or gas from the Codell and Niobrara Formations underlying certain lands, including the Application Lands, with the permitted well locations in accordance with the provisions of Order No. 407-1. Order No. 407-1 (amended on March 29, 2000 in accordance with Order No. 407-17, entered November 18, 1985), among other things, established 80-acre drilling and spacing units for the production of oil and/or gas and associated hydrocarbons from the Codell Formation underlying certain lands, including the Application Lands, with the drilling and spacing unit to be designated by the operator drilling the first well in the quarter section, (or the Director, if the operator fails to designate). The permitted well shall be located in the center of either 40-acre tract within the drilling and spacing unit with a tolerance of 200 feet in any direction. The operator shall have the option to drill an additional well on the undrilled 40-acre tract in each 80-acre drilling and spacing unit.

4. On April 27, 1998, the Commission adopted Rule 318A, which, among other things, established drilling windows and allowed certain drilling locations to be utilized to drill or twin a well, deepen a well or recomplete a well and to commingle any or all of the Cretaceous Age Formation from the base of the Dakota Formation to the surface. The Application Lands are subject to the foregoing Orders and Rule 318A. Pursuant to Rule 318A.j., Rule 318A supersedes all prior Commission drilling and spacing orders affecting well location and density requirements of GWA wells.

5. Applicant plans to drill one (1) horizontal well on the Application Lands. The Stockley C15-79HN Well has a proposed surface location of 316' FSL, 280' FWL, Section 15, Township 4 North, Range 64 West and a proposed bottomhole location of 2470' FSL, 75' FWL, Section 10, Township 4 North, Range 64 West.

6. Applicant requests that the Commission establish a 560-acre wellbore spacing for the Stockley C15-79HN Well on the Application Lands. The proposed 560-acre wellbore spacing unit shall consist of Section 9: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 10: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 15: W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ , and Section 16: E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$  of Township 4 North, Range 64 West, 6<sup>th</sup> P.M. Weld County, Colorado ("Wellbore Spacing Unit"). A reference map is attached hereto.

7. Applicant further confirms that it is not changing the established 80-acre drilling and spacing units for any existing vertical Niobrara Formation wells. Applicant further confirms that it is not changing the established distribution of proceeds for any existing vertical Niobrara Formation wells. Applicant will allocate and distribute proceeds from the Stockley C15-79HN Well on a 560-acre basis.

8. Notice was provided to the interested parties listed on Exhibit A attached hereto.

9. Applicant asserts that a 560-acre wellbore spacing unit for the Stockley C15-79HN Well will allow for economic and efficient drainage of the Niobrara Formation; will prevent waste; will not adversely affect correlative rights and will assure the greatest ultimate recovery of gas and associated hydrocarbon substances from the reservoirs. A 560-acre wellbore spacing unit is not smaller than the maximum area that can be economically and efficiently drained by one (1) horizontal well in such unit.

10. The surface location of the Stockley C15-79HN Well is not within a designated drilling window, however, Applicant has a Surface Use Agreement and a signed consent letter allowing Applicant to drill from outside a designated window as defined in Commission Rule 318A.a. and further than 50 feet from an existing surface well location as provided in Commission Rule 318A.c.(2). The Stockley C15-79HN Well will be located on a new multi-well (two well) pad in order to minimize surface disturbance.

11. The initial perforation of the Niobrara Formation, and the ultimate bottomhole location for the well, shall be no closer than 460' from the boundaries of the 560-acre wellbore spacing unit. The Applicant maintains that the one (1) horizontal well will have no adverse effect on correlative rights of adjacent owners.

WHEREFORE, Applicant respectfully requests that this matter be set for hearing, that notice thereof be given as required by law and that upon such hearing this Commission shall enter its order:

A. Establishing the 560-acre Wellbore Spacing Unit for the Stockley C15-79HN Well;

B. Establishing that the initial perforation of the Niobrara Formation, and the ultimate bottomhole location for the Stockley C15-79HN Well, shall be no closer than 460' from the boundaries of the 560-acre wellbore spacing unit;

C. Finding that the 560-acre wellbore spacing unit will prevent waste, protect correlative rights, and will maximize the efficient and economic production of the Niobrara Formation on the Application Lands; and

D. Granting any other relief necessary to prevent waste and protect correlative rights of the adjacent owners.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

**Noble Energy, Inc.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Jamie L. Jost  
Elizabeth Y. Gallaway  
Beatty & Wozniak, P.C.  
Attorneys for Applicant  
216 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1100  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
(303) 407-4499

Applicant's Address:  
1625 Broadway # 2200  
Denver, CO 80202

VERIFICATION

STATE OF COLORADO                    )  
  ) ss.  
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER)

\_\_\_\_\_, of lawful age, being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says that he is Attorney-in-Fact for Noble Energy, Inc. and that he has read the foregoing Application and that the matters therein contained are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to before this \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2011.

Witness my hand and official seal.

[SEAL]

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

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**AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING**

STATE OF COLORADO )  
 )ss.  
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER )

Jamie L. Jost of lawful age, and being first duly sworn upon her oath, states and declares:

That she is the attorney for Noble Energy, Inc., that on or before March \_\_\_\_, 2011, she attempted to cause a copy of the attached Application to be deposited in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the parties listed on Exhibit A to the Application.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie L. Jost

Subscribed and sworn to before me on March \_\_\_\_, 2011.

Witness my hand and official seal.

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

**EXHIBIT A**  
**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Noble Energy, Inc.  
1625 Broadway # 2200  
Denver, CO 80202

Oncken Family Partnership  
Attention: Rick Oncken  
3400 Valley Wind Lane  
Missoula, MT 59804

Estate of Sam Brown  
c/o Charlsia Burns  
8610 Pasture View Lane  
Houston, TX 77024-7038

Brown & Stanwood  
c/o Michael Stanwood  
8505 Monroe  
Houston, TX 77061

R.R. Pennington  
9819 Sagecourt Drive  
Houston, TX 77089

Dan M. Mitchell  
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P.O. Box 636  
Cut Bank, MT 59427

Celia Greenman  
Colorado Division of Wildlife  
6060 Broadway  
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Kent Kuster  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
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David Bauer  
Weld County Government  
1111 H Street  
Greeley, CO 80632