

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NOBLE)
ENERGY, INC. FOR AN ORDER POOLING ALL)
INTERESTS IN THE NIOBRARA FORMATION IN A)
DESIGNATED 320-ACRE WELLBORE SPACING)
UNIT LOCATED IN THE SPINDLE FIELD, WELD)
COUNTY, COLORADO.)
)

Cause No. _____

Docket No. _____

APPLICATION

COMES NOW Noble Energy, Inc. (referred to herein as "Applicant"), by and through its undersigned attorneys, and makes application to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission ("Commission"), for an order to pool all interests within a designated approximate 320-acre wellbore spacing unit for the drilling of the Abbey State V16-77HN Well ("Well") (API No. 05-123-34631) to produce from the Niobrara Formation located in the following lands:

Township 2 North, Range 67 West, 6th P.M.
Section 16: W½

Weld County, Colorado (hereafter "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, and is a registered operator in good-standing with the Commission.
2. Applicant owns certain leasehold interests in 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 Niobrara Formation underlying certain lands, including the Application Lands, with the permitted well locations in accordance with the provisions of Order No. 407-1.
4. On April 27, 1998, the Commission adopted Rule 318A, which, among other things, 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 Formations from the base of the Dakota Formation to the surface. On December 5, 2005, Rule 318A was amended to allow interior infill and boundary wells to be drilled and wellbore spacing units to be established. On August 8, 2011, Rule 318A was again amended to, among other things, address drilling of horizontal wells. The Application Lands are subject to Rule 318A for the Niobrara Formation.
5. Applicant designated an approximate 320-acre wellbore spacing unit within the Application Lands, as described below, for the production of oil, gas, and associated hydrocarbons

from the Niobrara Formation pursuant to Rule 318A. and notified the appropriate parties under Rule 318A.

6. Applicant, pursuant to Commission Rule 530 and the provisions of C.R.S. § 34-60-116 (6) and (7), seeks an order to pool all interests, including but not limited to, any nonconsenting interests, in the Application Lands in the Niobrara Formation underlying the following designated approximate 320-acre wellbore spacing unit:

Township 2 North, Range 67 West, 6th P.M.
Section 16: W½

(hereafter "Wellbore Spacing Unit").

7. Applicant requests that the Commission's pooling order be made effective as of the earlier of the date of this Application, or the date that any of the costs specified in C.R.S. § 34-60-116(7)(b)(II) are first incurred for the drilling of the Well to the Niobrara Formation on the Application Lands.

8. Applicant certifies that copies of this Application will be served on all persons owning an interest in the mineral estate of the tracts to be pooled within seven (7) days of the date hereof, as required by Rule 507.b(2), and that at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing on this matter, each such interest owner not already leased or voluntarily pooled will be offered the opportunity to lease, or to participate in the drilling of the Well, and will be provided with the information required by Rule 530. The list of such interested parties is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

9. That in order to prevent waste and to protect correlative rights, all interests in the Application Lands and Wellbore Spacing Unit should be pooled for the orderly development of the Niobrara Formation, including any nonconsenting interests therein.

WHEREFORE, Applicant requests that this matter be set for hearing at the next available opportunity, that notice be given as required by law, and that upon such hearing, the Commission enter its order:

A. Pooling all interests in the Application Lands and Wellbore Spacing Unit for the development of the Niobrara Formation.

B. Providing that the Commission's pooling order is made effective as of the earlier of the date of this Application, or the date that any of the costs specified in C.R.S. § 34-60-116(7)(b)(II) are first incurred for the drilling of any well in the Wellbore Spacing Unit to the Niobrara Formation on the Application Lands.

C. Providing that the interests of any owners with whom the Applicant has been unable to secure a lease or other agreement to participate in the drilling of the Well are pooled by operation of statute, pursuant to C.R.S. § 34-60-116(6) and (7), and made subject to the cost recovery provisions thereof with respect to all wells drilled to develop the Niobrara Formation in the Wellbore Spacing Unit comprising the Application Lands.

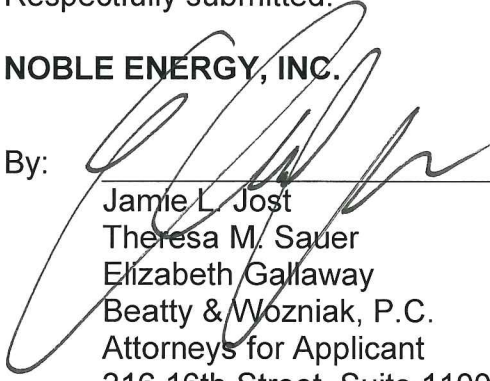
D. For such other findings and orders as the Commission may deem proper or advisable in this matter.

WHEREFORE, Applicant respectfully requests that this matter be set for hearing in October, 2012, that notice be given as required by law, and that upon such hearing, the Commission enter its order consistent with Applicant's request as set forth above.

DATED this 30th day of July, 2012.

Respectfully submitted:

NOBLE ENERGY, INC.

By: 

Jamie L. Jost
Theresa M. Sauer
Elizabeth Gallaway
Beatty & Wozniak, P.C.
Attorneys for Applicant
216 16th Street, Suite 1100
Denver, Colorado 80202
(303) 407-4499

Applicant's Address:

Noble Energy, Inc.
ATTN: Erin Struzzieri
1625 Broadway, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80202

EXHIBIT A

Foundation Energy Fund I, LLC
c/o Foundation Energy Management, LLC
1801 Broadway, Suite 408
Denver, CO 80202

Merit Management Partners I, L.P.
13727 Noel Rd., Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75240

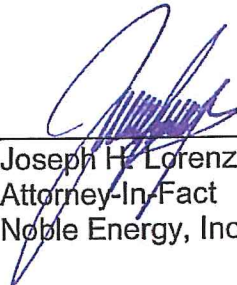
Merit Energy Partners III, L.P.
13727 Noel Rd., Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75240

State of Colorado
1127 Sherman Street, Suite 300
Denver, Colorado 80203-2206

VERIFICATION

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

Joseph H. Lorenzo, 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.



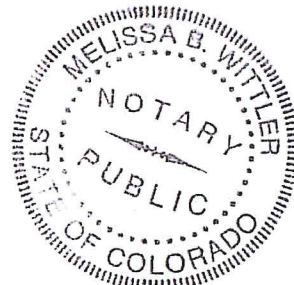
Joseph H. Lorenzo,
Attorney-In-Fact
Noble Energy, Inc.

Subscribed and sworn to before this 25th day of July, 2012.

Witness my hand and official seal.

[SEAL]

My commission expires: 04/24/2014





Notary Public

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NOBLE)
ENERGY, INC. FOR AN ORDER POOLING ALL)
INTERESTS IN THE NIOBRARA FORMATION IN A)
DESIGNATED 320-ACRE WELLBORE SPACING)
UNIT LOCATED IN THE SPINDLE FIELD, WELD)
COUNTY, COLORADO.)
)

Cause No. _____

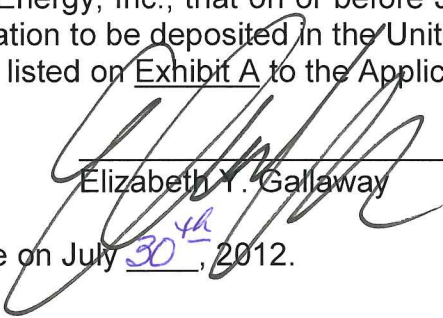
Docket No. _____

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

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

Elizabeth Y. Gallaway of lawful age, and being first duly sworn upon her oath, states and declares:

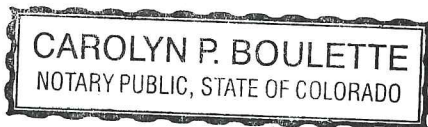
That she is the attorney for Noble Energy, Inc., that on or before July ____, 2012, she caused a copy of the attached Application to be deposited in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the parties listed on Exhibit A to the Application.


Elizabeth Y. Gallaway

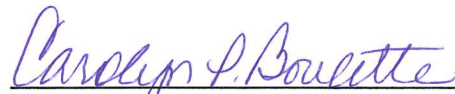
Subscribed and sworn to before me on July 30th, 2012.

Witness my hand and official seal.

My commission expires: October 22, 2015.



My Comm. Expires October 22, 2015


Notary Public