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

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PROMULGATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF FIELD RULES TO GOVERN OPERATIONS IN THE WATTENBERG FIELD, WELD COUNTY, COLORADO CAUSE NOS. 232, 407 and 499

DOCKET NO. 0910-GA-06

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

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, among other things, allow interior infill and boundary wells to be drilled and wellbore spacing units to be established, and provided that, for proposed boundary wells and wellbore spacing units, notice shall be given by the operator to all owners in the proposed wellbore spacing unit, and any such owner may submit a timely written objection to the operator and the matter shall be set on the docket for Commission hearing. An Application for Permit-to-Drill ("APD"), Form 2, specifically identifying that a boundary well or a wellbore spacing unit is proposed shall also be filed with the Director in accordance with Rule 303. Section 9 of Township 1 North, Range 66 West, 6th P.M. is subject to this Rule for the Codell and Niobrara Formations.

On or about February 20, 2009, Noble Energy Inc. ("Noble"), submitted a Rule 318A.e.(6) letter to Merit Energy Company ("Merit"), stating Noble's intent to propose, drill, and operate the Nelson-USX WW #09-24D Well by establishing a 160-acre wellbore spacing unit comprised of the below-listed lands, for the production of gas and associated hydrocarbons from the Codell and Niobrara Formations:

Township 1 North, Range 66 West, 6th P.M.

Section 9: E¹/₂ SW¹/₄ W¹/₂ SE¹/₄

On or about February 24, 2009, Merit submitted a written objection Noble's Rule 318A.e.(6) letter stating numerous concerns and posing several questions to Noble. Consequently, the Director advised Noble it would hold the APD pending a resolution of the objection by the parties.

On September 4, 2009, Noble, by its attorneys, pursuant to Rule 318A.e.(6)(B), requested that this matter be set on the docket for the next available Commission hearing.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission of the State of Colorado, pursuant to the above, has scheduled the above-entitled matter for hearing on:

- Date: Monday, October 26, 2009 Tuesday, October 27, 2009
- Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Greeley, CO (Location to be determined and will be posted to the website)

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if any party requires special accommodations as a result of a disability for this hearing, please contact Margaret Humecki at (303) 894-2100 ext. 5139, prior to the hearing and arrangements will be made.

Pursuant to said hearing in the above-entitled matter at the time and place aforesaid, or at any adjourned meeting, the Commission will enter such orders as it deems appropriate to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and to prevent the waste of oil and gas, either or both, in the operations of said field, and to carry out the purposes of the statute.

In accordance with Rule 527., the parties are to participate in a prehearing

conference before the hearings officer during the week of October 12, 2009, or at an earlier time as agreed to by the parties.

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

By___

Robert A. Willis, Acting Secretary

Dated at Suite 801 1120 Lincoln Street Denver, CO 80203 September 29, 2009 Attorneys for Applicant Noble: Andrew A. Bremner Susan L. Aldridge 216 Sixteenth Street, Suite 1100 Denver, CO 80202-5115 (303) 407-4499

Representative for the Respondent Merit: Laura E. Dorety, Land Administrator, North Division Merit Energy Company 13727 Noel Road, Suite 500 Dallas, TX 75240 (972) 628-1054