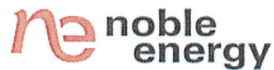


1625 Broadway  
Suite 2000  
Denver, CO 80202

Tel: 303.228.4000  
Fax: 303.228.4280  
www.nobleenergyinc.com



January 26, 2010

Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission  
The Chancery Building  
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801  
Denver, CO 80203

Attn: Mr. David Neslin, 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**  
Dillard USX AB 05-99HZ  
Niobrara New Drill  
Township 7 North, Range 64 West, 6th P.M.  
Section 5: SE/4SE/4: 200' FSL & 155' FEL (Surface Location)  
Weld County, Colorado

Mr. Neslin:

Noble Energy Inc. (NEI) is planning to drill the above mentioned well to the Niobrara formation.

The surface location of NEI's proposed well has been staked outside of the 318Aa drilling window. The location is being permitted as an exception location. NEI has obtained written permission in a Surface Use Agreement from the surface owner.

Under the Revised Rule 318A 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 447' from the nearest oil and gas well. Noble has obtained permission, contained in a Surface Use Agreement, from the surface owner.

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 black ink that reads 'Kate Shirley'.

Kate Shirley  
Regulatory Specialist  
Noble Energy Inc.