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August 9, 2010

Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission  
The Chancery Building  
Attn: Mr. David Neslin, Director  
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801  
Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: **Stroh H12-99HZ**  
Township 3 North, Range 65 West, 6<sup>th</sup> P.M.  
Section 12: 850' FNL & 480' FEL (BHL)  
Weld County, Colorado

Mr. Neslin:

Noble Energy, Inc. ("Noble") is filing an Application for Permit (Form 2) for approval to drill the captioned horizontal well with a bottomhole location in the NE/4 of Section 12, T3N, R65W. With the existing producing wells, and wells currently being permitted in the NE/4 of Section 12, T3N, R65W, 6<sup>th</sup> P.M. this will result in a total of nine (9) bottomhole locations in the NE/4 of Section 12, T3N, R65W, 6<sup>th</sup> P.M.

As you recall, last year Noble presented its request for an approximate forty (40) well pilot program to test the viability and effectiveness of horizontal wells in the Greater Wattenberg Area. During this meeting with the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission ("COGCC"), Noble stated the certain need for variances due to the 318A.e.(7)f. rule of eight (8) bottomhole locations per quarter section. At that time, the COGCC agreed that this type of variance for a horizontal well would be warranted.

Therefore, Noble, as operator of the captioned well, respectfully requests the Director of the COGCC grant a variance under COGCC Rule 502.b. and approve the location of the captioned well as permitted. The requested variance will not violate the basic intent of the Oil and Gas Conservation Act.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact Ms. Linda Pavelka at (303) 228-4064 should you have any questions.

Yours truly,

**NOBLE ENERGY, INC.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chuck Snure'.

Chuck Snure  
Land Supervisor-Wattenberg

CAS:jkb