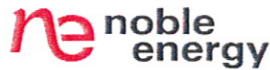


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January 31, 2012

Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission  
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801  
Denver, CO 80203  
ATTN: Mr. David Neslin, Director

RE: 502.b. Variance Request from Rule 603.a (1)  
Union Colony I26-01  
SENE Sec. 26 T6N R66W 6pm  
Weld County, CO

Dear Mr. Neslin,

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

The surface location of NEI's proposed well is located 139 feet south east from an overhead utility and 151 feet from County Road 66. As prescribed by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) Rule 603.a.(1) states, "At the time of initial drilling of the well, the wellhead shall be located a distance of one hundred fifty (150) feet or one and one-half (1 ½) times the height of the derrick, whichever is greater, from any building unit, public road, major above ground utility line, or railroad. Noble respectfully requests you approve our variance request for the following reasons:

- A. Both County Roads 35 and 66 have large volumes of traffic usage; it would be burdensome on local traffic to close these roads during the drilling phase. To minimize traffic disturbance and avoid the overhead utility, access to the location will be from the south as noted on the Access Road Map.
- B. Noble Energy plans to drill with a rig that is 76' tall which means one and one half times the derrick height would equal 114 feet. One of the two rigs NEI has, which meet the height restriction, will be assigned to drill this well.
- C. Noble Energy is twinning an existing well; Kissler-Amen 1-26, which is 47 feet north of the proposed well in order to minimize surface disturbance.

Noble respectfully requests that the COGCC review the enclosed information and approve the requested variance and Application for Permit to Drill the captioned well.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cheryl Johnson  
Regulatory Analyst  
Noble Energy Inc.