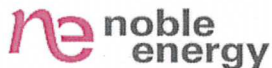


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March 27, 2012

Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission  
The Chancery Building  
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801  
Denver, CO 80203  
Attn: Mr. Thom Kerr, Acting 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**  
**THORNTON USX N05-23D**  
Codell/Niobrara/J Sand New Drill  
Township 5 North, Range 67 West, 6th P.M.  
Section 5: SE/4SE/4: 737' FSL & 1035' FEL (Surface Location)  
Weld County, Colorado

Mr. Kerr:

Noble Energy Inc. (NEI) is planning to drill the above mentioned well to the Codell/Niobrara/J Sand formation(s).

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

Under the Revised Rule 318A.c 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 547' from the nearest oil and gas well. Noble has obtained permission, contained in a waiver, 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 blue ink that reads 'Mari Clark'.

Mari Clark  
Regulatory Analyst II  
Noble Energy Inc.