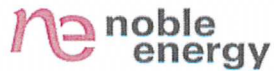


1625 Broadway
Suite 2000
Denver, CO 80202



Tel: 303.228.4000
Fax: 303.228.4280
www.nobleenergyinc.com

April 25, 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)**
WELLS RANCH AE18-65-1HN
Niobrara New Drill
Township 6 North, Range 62 West, 6th P.M.
Section 18: NW/4SW/4: 1380' FSL & 215' FWL (Surface Location)
Weld County, Colorado

Dear Mr. Kerr:

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

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.