### BEFORE THE OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF GREAT WESTERN OPERATING COMPANY, LLC FOR AN ORDER TO ESTABLISH AN APPROXIMATE 320-ACRE DRILLING AND SPACING UNIT FOR THE W½ OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 6 NORTH, RANGE 67 WEST 6<sup>TH</sup> P.M. FOR THE CODELL-NIOBRARA FORMATION, WATTENBERG FIELD, WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

Cause No.

Docket No.

#### **APPLICATION**

Great Western Operating Company, LLC ("Applicant"), by and through its attorneys, Beatty & Wozniak, P.C., respectfully submits this Application to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (the "Commission"), pursuant to C.R.S. 34-60-116, for an order to establish an approximate horizontal well 320-acre drilling and spacing unit for the production of oil, gas, and associated hydrocarbons from the Codell-Niobrara Formation in the following lands:

Township 6 North, Range 67 West, 6<sup>th</sup> P.M. Section 11: W½

Weld County, Colorado ("Application Lands").

In support thereof, Applicant states and alleges as follows:

- 1. Applicant is a limited liability company duly authorized to conduct business in the State of Colorado, and is a registered operator in good standing with the Commission.
  - 2. Applicant owns holds the right to operate in the Application Lands.
- 3. On February 19, 1992, the Commission entered Order No. 407-87 (amended August 20, 1993), which among other things, established 80-acre drilling and spacing units for the production of oil, gas and associated hydrocarbons from the Codell-Niobrara Formation, with the permitted well locations in accordance with the provisions of Order No. 407-1.
- 4. On April 27, 1998, the Commission adopted Rule 318A, which, among other things, allowed certain drilling locations to be utilized to drill or twin a well, deepen a well or recomplete a well and to commingle any or all of the Cretaceous Age Formations from the base of the Dakota Formation to the surface. On December 5, 2005, Rule 318A was amended to allow interior infill and boundary wells to be drilled and wellbore spacing units to be established. On August 8, 2011, Rule 318A was again amended to, among other things, address drilling of horizontal wells but did not prohibit the establishment of drilling and spacing units within the Greater Wattenberg Area.

- 5. There are existing vertical and/or directional wells drilled and completed to the Codell-Niobrara Formation on the Application Lands. Applicant confirms that such wells are excluded from the proposed horizontal well 320-acre drilling and spacing unit and that the allocation of proceeds from such wells shall continue to be paid on their current spacing or leasehold status.
- 6. Applicant requests that the Commission create an approximate horizontal well 320-acre drilling and spacing unit on the Application Lands for horizontal well development and the operation of the Codell-Niobrara Formation.
- 7. Applicant requests that it be authorized to drill and complete up to six (6) horizontal wells within the unit with the treated interval of the horizontal wells located no closer than 460' from the boundaries of the drilling and spacing unit and no closer than 150' from the treated interval of any other wellbore located in the unit, without exception being granted by the Director.
- 8. Applicant has an executed Surface Use Agreement and consent to locate the wellpads outside of the designated GWA drilling window. If, however, there is a change in the location of the wellpads, then Applicant requests authorization to locate the wellpads for the proposed horizontal wells anywhere within the unit, or on adjacent lands and further requests confirmation that it shall be allowed to utilize its blanket bond to located the wellpads for the proposed horizontal wells on at a surface location outside the applicable GWA drilling window, if applicable. As a courtesy, the surface owner has been provided notice of this Application.
- 9. Applicant asserts that establishing an approximate 320-acre drilling and spacing unit on the Application Lands will allow for economic and efficient drainage of the Codell-Niobrara Formation; will prevent waste; will not adversely affect correlative rights and will assure the greatest ultimate recovery of oil and associated hydrocarbon substances from the Codell-Niobrara Formation. A 320-acre drilling and spacing units are not smaller than the maximum area that can be economically and efficiently drained by the proposed well in the Codell-Niobrara Formation within each unit.
- 10. That the names and addresses of the interested parties according to the information and belief of the Applicant are set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof, and the undersigned certifies that copies of this Application shall be served on each interested party within the next seven days as required by Rule 503.e.

WHEREFORE, Applicant respectfully requests that this matter be set for hearing, that notice be given as required by law and that upon such hearing this Commission enter its order:

- A. Establishing the Application Lands as an approximate horizontal well 320-acre drilling and spacing unit for the Codell-Niobrara Formation and authorizing six (6) horizontal wells within the unit.
- B. Providing that the treated interval of each horizontal well shall be no closer than 460' from the boundaries of the drilling and spacing unit and no closer than 150' from the treated interval of any other wellbore located in the unit, without exception being granted by the Director.

- C. Acknowledging that there is an executed Surface Use Agreement and consent to locate the wellpads outside of the designated GWA drilling window and, if there is a change in the location of the wellpads, then authorizing Applicant to locate the wellpads anywhere within the unit, or on adjacent lands and confirming that Applicant may utilize its blanket bond to locate the wellpads for the proposed horizontal wells on at a surface location outside the applicable GWA drilling window, if applicable.
- D. Finding that the approximate 320-acre drilling and spacing unit will prevent waste, protect correlative rights, and will maximize the efficient and economic production of the Codell-Niobrara Formation on the Application Lands; and

E. Granting any other relief as may be appropriate.

Dated this day of May, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

GREAT WESTERN OPERATING COMPANY, LLC

By:

Jamie L. Jost

Gregory J. Nibert Jr. Beatty & Wozniak, P.C. Attorneys for Applicant 216 16th Street, Suite 1100

Denver, Colorado 80202

(303)407-4499

### Applicant's Address:

Great Western Operating Company, LLC ATTN: K. Wade Pollard, CPL 1700 Broadway, Suite 650 Denver, CO 80290

#### **VERIFICATION**

STATE OF COLORADO	)
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER	) ss :)

K. Wade Pollard, of lawful age, being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says that he is the Land Manager for Great Western Operating Company, LLC and that he has read the foregoing Application and that the matters therein contained are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

K. Wade Pollard

Land Manager

Great Western Operating Company, LLC

Subscribed and sworn to before this 20 day of May, 2013.

Witness my hand and official seal.

[SEAL]

JESSICA DANIELLE VIRGO
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF COLORADO
NOTARY ID 20134020753
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MARCH 25, 2017

My commission expires: <u>March</u>

**Notary Public** 

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### **AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING**

STATE OF COLORADO	)
	)ss.
CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER	)

Jamie L. Jost of lawful age, and being first duly sworn upon her oath, states and declares:

That she is the attorney for Great Western Operating Company, LLC, that on or before June 2013, she caused a copy of the attached Application to be deposited in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the parties listed on Exhibit A to the Application.

Jamie L. Jost

Subscribed and sworn to before me on May 3D, 2013.

Witness my hand and official seal.

My commission express 10-0

Notary Public

# EXHIBIT A INTERESTED PARTIES

Great Western Operating Company, LLC 1700 Broadway, Suite 650 Denver, CO 80290

Synergy Resources Corporation Attn: Sue Eich, Land Manager 20203 Highway 60 Platteville, CO 80651

Bill Barrett Corporation Attn: Brian Wert, Senior Landman 1099 18th Street, Suite 2300 Denver, CO 80202

Mission Oil Company Attn: Land Dept 1600 West 1st Street Loveland, CO 80537

Weld County School District RE-4 Attn: Stephanie Watson or Lance Estrella 1020 Main Street Windsor, CO 80550 Kent Kuster Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South Denver, CO 80246-1530

Tom Schreiner Energy Liaison Colorado Parks and Wildlife Northeast Regional Office 6060 Broadway Denver, CO 80216

Weld County Colorado ATTN: David Bauer 1111 H Street Greeley, CO 80632

Surface Owner (Courtesy Notice Only)

Babcock Land Company ATTN: Dave Cocolin 212 Wahsatch Ave. Suite 801 Colorado Springs, CO 80903