



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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) CAUSE NO. 407
NOBLE ENERGY, INC. FOR AN ORDER TO)
VACATE ORDER NO. 407-480 IN SECTION 25,) DOCKET NO. 1310-SP-1197
TOWNSHIP 6 NORTH, RANGE 63 WEST 6TH P.M.)
FOR THE NIOBRARA FORMATION, UNNAMED)
FIELD, WELD COUNTY, COLORADO)

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

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 and/or gas from the Codell-Niobrara Formation underlying certain lands, with the permitted well locations in accordance with the provisions of Order No. 407-1. Section 25, Township 6 North, Range 63 West, 6th P.M. is subject to this Order for the Codell-Niobrara Formation.

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. Rule 318A supersedes all prior Commission drilling and spacing orders affecting well location and density requirements of Greater Wattenberg Area wells. On December 5, 2005, Rule 318A was amended, among other things, 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, among other things, to address drilling of horizontal wells. Section 25, Township 6 North, Range 63 West, 6th P.M. is subject to this Order for the Niobrara Formation.

On September 19, 2011, the Commission entered Order No. 407-480 which, among other things, established an approximate 640-acre wellbore spacing unit, approved up to eight horizontal wells in the wellbore spacing unit, and approved a variance from Rule 318A.f. to authorize a total of nine producing completions in the established unit. Section 25, Township 6 North, Range 63 West, 6th P.M. is subject to this Order for the Niobrara Formation.

On August 28, 2013, Noble Energy, Inc. ("Noble" or "Applicant"), by its attorneys, filed with the Commission pursuant to §34-60-116 C.R.S., a verified application ("Application") for an order to vacate Order No. 407-480, and establish that Rule 318A applies to the below described lands, for the production of oil, gas and associated hydrocarbons from the Niobrara Formation:

Township 6 North, Range 63 West, 6th P.M.
Section 25: All

Applicant states that ownership is common in the Application Lands and that Order No. 407-480, which was established prior to the 2011 amendments to Rule 318A pertaining to horizontal wells, arbitrarily limited the number of horizontal wells that may be drilled in the Application Lands and such limits impeded effective hydrocarbon production in the Application Lands.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to: 1) the general jurisdiction granted to the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission of the State of Colorado under §34-60-105 C.R.S.; 2) specific powers granted pursuant to §34-60-106 C.R.S.; 3) the State Administrative Procedures Act at §24-4-105 C.R.S.; and 4) the Commission's Series 500 Rules at 2 CCR 404-1, that the Commission has scheduled the above-entitled matter for hearing on:

Date: Monday, October 28, 2013
Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Time: 9:00 a.m.


Place: Limon Community Center
477 D Avenue
Limon, CO 80826

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if any party requires special accommodations as a result of a disability for this hearing, please contact Margaret Humecki at (303) 894-2100 ext. 5139, prior to the hearing and arrangements will be made.

Pursuant to said hearing in the above-entitled matter at the time and place aforesaid, or at any adjourned meeting, the Commission will enter such orders as it deems appropriate to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and to prevent the waste of oil and gas, either or both, in the operations of said field, and to carry out the purposes of the statute.

In accordance with Rule 509., any interested party desiring to protest the granting of the application or to intervene on the application should file with the Commission a written protest or intervention no later than October 11, 2013, briefly stating the basis of the protest or intervention. Such interested party shall, at the same time, serve a copy of the protest or intervention to the person filing the application. One electronic (cogcc.hearings_unit@state.co.us), one original and two copies shall be filed with the Commission. **Anyone who files a protest or intervention must be able to participate in a prehearing conference during the week of October 15, 2013.** Pursuant to Rule 503.g., if a party who has received notice under Rule 503.b. wishes to receive further pleadings in the above-referenced matter, that party must file a protest or intervention in accordance with these rules. In accordance with the practices of the Commission, should no protests or interventions be filed in this matter by **October 15, 2013, the Applicant may request that an administrative hearing be scheduled beginning October 15, 2013.** In the alternative, pursuant to Rule 511., if the matter is uncontested, the applicant may request, and the Director may recommend approval on the basis of the merits of the verified application and the supporting exhibits.

OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

By 
Robert J. Frick, Secretary

Dated: September 25, 2013

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