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

COGCC

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF	. )	Cause No. 407
PETRO OPERATING COMPANY LLC FOR	)	
AN ORDER ESTABLISHING AN	)	Docket No. 180300178
APPROXIMATE 480-ACRE DRILLING AND	)	
SPACING UNIT AND ESTABLISHING WELL	)	Type: SPACING
LOCATION RULES APPLICABLE TO THE	)	
DRILLING AND PRODUCING OF WELLS	)	
FROM THE CODELL AND NIOBRARA	)	
FORMATIONS COVERING CERTAIN LANDS	)	
IN TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 66 WEST,	)	
6TH P.M., WATTENBERG FIELD, WELD	)	•
COUNTY, COLORADO.	)	
	•	

#### **APPLICATION**

Petro Operating Company LLC ("Applicant"), Operator No. 10583, by its attorneys, Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley, P.C., respectfully submits this Application to the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission of the State of Colorado ("Commission") for an order establishing an approximate 480-acre drilling and spacing unit and establishing well location rules applicable to the drilling of wells and producing of oil, gas and associated hydrocarbons from the Codell and Niobrara Formations covering certain lands in Weld County, Colorado. In support of its Application, Applicant states:

- 1. Applicant is a Colorado 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 leasehold interests in the following lands ("Application Lands") and therefore is an owner, as defined by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Act and Commission Rules, with the right to drill:

Township 2 North, Range 66 West, 6th P.M.

Section 19: W½
Section 30: NW¼

A reference map of the Application Lands is attached hereto.

3. On April 27, 1988, the Commission adopted Rule 318A, the Greater Wattenberg Area Special Well Location, Spacing and Unit Designation Rule, which was amended on August 8, 2011 to, among other things, address the drilling of horizontal wells and requires that a horizontal wellbore spacing unit must include any governmental quarter-quarter section that are located less than 460' from the completed interval of the wellbore lateral. Rule 318A supersedes all prior Commission drilling and

spacing orders affecting well location and density requirements of the Greater Wattenberg Area. The Rule does not, however, prohibit the establishment of drilling and spacing units within the Greater Wattenberg Area. The Application Lands are subject to this Rule.

- 4. On January 26, 2015, the Commission issued Order No. 407-1201, which pooled all interests in an approximate 720-acre designated horizontal wellbore spacing unit established for the W½W½ of Sections 19 and 30 and the NW¼NW¼ of Section 31, Township 2 North, Range 66 West, 6th P.M., and the E½E½ of Sections 24 and 25, and the NE¼NE¼ of Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 67 West, 6th P.M., for the development and operation of the Niobrara Formation and subjected any nonconsenting interests to the cost recovery provisions of §34-60-116(7), C.R.S., for the Gee 16N-25HZ Well. The Gee 16N-25HZ Well is currently producing from the Niobrara Formation and is located entirely within the E½E½ of Sections 24 and 25, and the NE¼NE¼ of Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 67 West, 6th P.M., which is outside Applicant's proposed drilling and spacing unit. Applicant states that the Gee 16N-25HZ Well will remain subject to its governing designated horizontal wellbore spacing unit and Order No. 407-1201 and should continue to pay and distribute proceeds in accordance therewith.
- 5. There are vertical wells within the above-described proposed 480-acre drilling and spacing unit that are currently shut-in that have produced from the Codell and/or Niobrara Formations. Applicant states those wells will not be affected by the proposed spacing unit and order and will remain subject to applicable Commission rules and spacing orders such that proceeds from the sale of oil or gas from those wells shall continue to be distributed based on the applicable rules and spacing orders.
- 6. To promote efficient drainage of the Codell and Niobrara Formations within the Application Lands and to avoid waste, Applicant requests that the Commission establish an approximate 480-acre drilling and spacing unit covering the below-described Application Lands for production of oil, gas and associated hydrocarbons from the Codell and Niobrara Formations:

Township 2 North, Range 66 West, 6th P.M.

Section 19: W½
Section 30: NW¼

7. Applicant is requesting authorization to drill and complete one (1) horizontal well in the above-described drilling and spacing unit with the option to drill and complete up to a total of twelve (12) horizontal wells in the unit for production of oil, gas and associated hydrocarbons from the Codell and Niobrara Formations. Applicant further requests that the treated interval of each wellbore be located no closer than 150 feet from the treated interval of any other wellbore producing from the Codell and/or Niobrara Formations, and no closer than 460 feet from the unit boundary, without exception being granted by the Director.

- 8. Applicant requests authority to drill only those wells necessary to determine the well density which allows the most efficient drainage of the Codell and Niobrara Formations, prevents waste, does not adversely affect correlative rights, and assures the greatest ultimate recovery of oil, gas and associated hydrocarbon substances from the Codell and Niobrara Formations. The proposed drilling and spacing unit is not smaller than the maximum area that can be economically and efficiently drained by the authorized wells in the unit. Applicant further maintains that the authorized wells drilled in the above-proposed drilling and spacing unit will have no adverse effect on correlative rights of adjacent owners.
- 9. Applicant states that the authorized wells will be drilled from one well pad located within the unit and/or from a legal location on adjacent lands, without exception granted by the Director.
- 10. 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 seven days after filing of the original application as required by Rules 503.e and 507.b.(1).

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 consistent with Applicant's proposals as set forth above.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

WELBORN SULLIVAN MECK & TOOLEY, P.C.

By:

Joseph C. Pierzchala

Welborn Sulfivan Meck & Tooley, P.C.

Attorneys for Applicant 1125 17th Street, Suite 2200

Denver, CO 80202

303-830-2500

jpierzchala@wsmtlaw.com

Applicant's Address:

Petro Operating Company LLC 9033 East Easter Place, Suite 112 Centennial, CO 80112-2105 Attn: Roger A. Parker, Manager

Phone: 303-475-5640

#### **VERIFICATION**

STATE OF COLORADO	)
	) ss.
CITY & COLINTY OF DENIVER	1

Roger A. Parker, Manager of Petro Operating Company LLC, upon oath deposes and says that he has read the foregoing Application and that the statements contained therein are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

PETRO OPERATING COMPANY LLC

Roger A. Pa<del>rk</del>ér, Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16 day of January, 2018 by Roger A. Parker, Manager of Petro Operating Company LLC.

Witness my hand and official seal.

EMMANUEL ABROKWAH NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF COLORADO NOTARY ID 20154029277 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JULY 27, 2019

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 07 - 27 - 2

#### **EXHIBIT A**

#### **INTERESTED PARTIES**

#### Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Kent Kuster 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South Denver, CO 80246-1500

#### Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Brandon Marette Northeast Region Office 6060 Broadway Denver, CO 80216

#### **Weld County**

Troy Swain Department of Planning Services 1555 North 17th Avenue Greeley CO 80631

#### **City of Fort Lupton**

Todd Hodges 130 South McKinley Avenue Fort Lupton CO 80621

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### **EXHIBIT A**

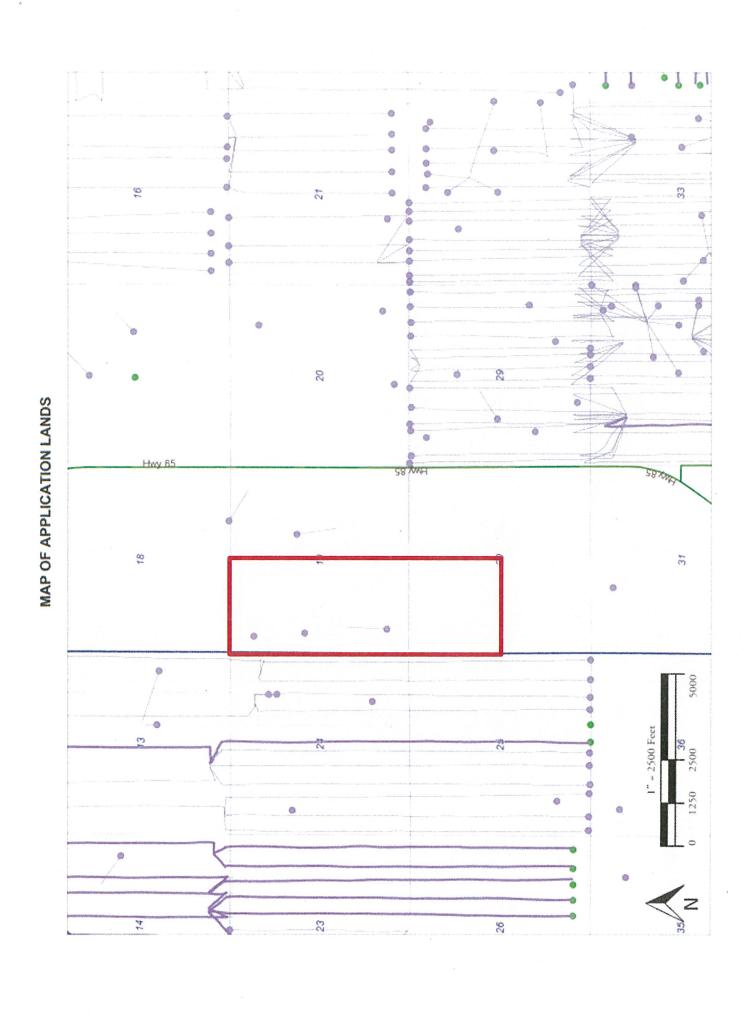
#### **INTERESTED PARTIES**

Kerr-McGee Oil & Gas Onshore LP 1099 18<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 1800 Denver, CO 80217

Murray J. Herring 10881 W. Asbury Ave., Suite 230 Lakewood, CO 80227

DJ Partners, LLC 9033 E. Easter Place, Suite 112 Centennial, CO 80112

Top Operating 10881 W. Asbury Ave., Suite 230 Lakewood, CO 80227



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COUNTY, COLORADO.	)	

#### **AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING**

STATE OF COLORADO §

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER §

I, Joseph C. Pierzchala, of lawful age, and being first duly sworn upon my oath, state and declare:

That I am the attorney for Petro Operating Company LLC and that on or before January 24, 2018, I caused a copy of the attached Application to be deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the parties listed on <a href="Exhibit A">Exhibit A</a> to the Application.

Joseph C. Pierzchala

Subscribed and sworn to before me <u>January</u> <u>30</u>, 2018.

Witness my hand and official seal.

MELISSA A. MORMAN NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF COLORADO NOTARY ID 19894012434 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES AUGUST 29, 2021 M. W. Sau D. Morman Notary Public

My commission expires: 8/29/2021