Before the Oil Conservation Division Exhibit No. <u>8</u> Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP **ORDER R-10707, OCD CASE 11708** Initial Hearing: September 30, 2010 A STATE OF A

New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

## Bill Richardson

Jim Noel Cabinet Secretary

Karen W. Garcia Deputy Cabinet Secretary

August 4, 2010

Mark Fesmire

**Division Director** 

**Oil Conservation Division** 



Mr. Chuck Creekmore Staff Landman ConocoPhillips San Juan Business Unit Post Office Box 4289 Farmington, New Mexico 87449-4289



Re: Amended Letter addressing Alternative Allocation Method for certain new drill commingled wells in the Mesaverde and Dakota formations based on Gas Composition Analysis. Supersedes Letter Dated July 20, 2010

Dear Mr. Creekmore:

The Oil Conservation Division has considered the information presented to it by ConocoPhillips in Santa Fe on May 13, 2010 concerning the use of Gas Composition Analysis based allocations as an alternative method for allocating production from certain new commingled wells completed in the Blanco Mesaverde Pool and Basin Dakota Pool in the San Juan Basin.

The Oil Conservation Division approves in principle the request of ConocoPhillips and wholly owned subsidiaries, ConocoPhillips Company and Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP (hereinafter collectively "ConocoPhillips"), to use Gas Composition Analysis based allocations in newly commingled wells where appropriate information exists for it to accurately allocate production between the Mesaverde and Dakota formations. From your presentation, it appears that allocating gas production from the Mesaverde and Dakota formations in new commingled wells using Gas Composition Analysis is valid where endpoints are known and show sufficient contrast. This methodology requires the establishment of local endpoints from gas samples in pure Mesaverde and pure Dakota gas streams. The known endpoints for hydrocarbon members are then used in conjunction with the results of a gas sample analysis from the combined flow stream in a new commingled well to calculate an allocation of the gas contribution from each formation.

Relative contributions from the Mesaverde and Dakota formations in new commingled wells can vary in time particularly in the early life of a well. To address this, ConocoPhillips will first obtain an initial gas sample at the time of completion after flow back to calculate an initial formation allocation. An additional gas sample will be taken three months after the initial completion to update the allocation. Samples will continue to be obtained at approximately three Letter to Chuck Creekmore Page 2

month intervals until the allocation appears to reach stabilization. ConocoPhillips will provide the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division a report after the initial completion and a final report after allocation stabilization. The final report will contain supporting documentation justifying the allocation of production between these formations and will contain each of the allocation percentages determined by Gas Composition Analysis. Commingling applications shall be filed with the Division's District office in Aztec allocating production based on this alternative method of allocation.

When notice to owners in the mineral estate of a new commingled well is required by Oil Conservation Division Rule 19.15.4.12A.(6) NMAC, the method of allocation will be indicated on the Division Form C-103 or other appropriate New Mexico Oil Conservation Division form.

Sincerely, 5.7

Mark E. Fesmire, P.E. Acting Director

cc: William F. Carr, Esq. Holland & Hart, LLP Post Office Box 2208 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504 Daniel Sanchez, NMOCD, Santa Fe Charlie Perrin, NMOCD, Aztec