



31 October 2016

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
Attn: Amanda Romero, Eniko Horvath
1 - 3 Charlotte Street, 3rd floor
London W1T 1RD
United Kingdom

Dear Amanda and Eniko,

On October 18, 2016, after 6 months of exhausting all available options to safely access our Picoplata #1 well site, in leasehold Valle Magdalena Medio -3 (VMM-3), the Colombian national police force (ESMAD) was deployed by government officials to San Martín to support safe access to the site.

Anti-fracking activists had been illegally blocking the road, preventing us and government authorities from gaining access to the work site since April 18. In alignment with our approach to [stakeholder engagement](#) and, specifically, [engaging with communities](#), ConocoPhillips and agencies of the Colombian national government engaged with stakeholders, including local governments and communities, nearly 100 times since the beginning of the project. We listened to their concerns and addressed questions about our plans. The meetings focused on the legal, technical, social and environmental aspects of our plans, including discussions of our environmental license to conduct the production test, the environmental impact assessment for exploration of unconventional resources that we are preparing to submit to the National Authority of Environmental Licenses (in Spanish, ANLA), and the community benefit plan. These efforts were successful in securing the support of local leaders and the vast majority of community members, many of whom had questions and concerns at the beginning of the project.

ConocoPhillips and the national and local authorities also communicated with members of the anti-fracking movement several times, but were unable to secure a commitment to allow safe passage for lawful and governmentally approved activities or demobilize the blockade.

We have been working with the mayor of San Martin, law enforcement and the relevant government agencies to address the current illegal blockade of the public road leading to the Picoplata #1 well site. With complete support and direction from the Colombian government at all levels, we formally requested additional resources from the mayor of San Martin. This request, per normal procedure in Colombia, resulted in the deployment of ESMAD to allow for safe access to the site.

When communicating with local and national officials regarding the request for support, we made clear our expectation that the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPSHR) would be followed. Both ConocoPhillips and the Government of Colombia have publicly endorsed, and participate in, the VPSHR, which creates expectations of governments and companies and mandates reports on progress. The ESMAD were accompanied by a local Human Rights Representative to help ensure the VPSHR was followed. ConocoPhillips' [annual report to the VPSHR](#), which includes an update on our work in Colombia, is available on our website.

We are committed to continuing to work with governments and local communities in order to understand their perspectives while we advance our exploration plans.

Best regards,

Sabrina Watkins
Global Head of Sustainable Development