

January 22, 2009

**VIA EDGAR**

Ms. Jenifer Gallagher  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
Division of Corporate Finance  
100 F Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20549-7010

Re: Parker Drilling Company — Request for Extension of Response Time to SEC Comment Letter dated January 12, 2009

Dear Ms. Gallagher:

We refer you to the letter to Parker Drilling Company (the “Company”) dated January 12, 2009 (the “Comment Letter”) containing the comments of the Staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission to the Company’s Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 filed on February 29, 2008, the Company’s Proxy Statement filed on March 21, 2008, and the Company’s Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2008 filed on August 11, 2008 (File No. 001-07573). Following up on the conversation of our attorney with you on January 22, 2009, we are writing to confirm his discussion with you to extend the time to respond to the Comment Letter until January 30, 2009, as the Company needs additional time to process information and formulate appropriate responses to the Comment Letter.

We appreciate the Staff’s cooperation in this matter.

Please telephone me at (281) 406-2000, or our attorney, David Taylor of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP at (713) 226-1496, with any additional questions or comments you may have.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Ronald C. Potter

Ronald C. Potter

Vice President and General Counsel

cc: David Taylor  
Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP  
(Via E-mail: [dtaylor@lockelord.com](mailto:dtaylor@lockelord.com))