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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PIONEER DRILLING ANNOUNCES THIRD QUARTER 2009
EARNINGS RELEASE AND CONFERENCE CALL SCHEDULE**

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, October 21, 2009 – Pioneer Drilling Company (NYSE Amex: PDC) announced today that it intends to release financial results for the three months ended September 30, 2009, on Thursday, November 5, 2009 before the market opens. In conjunction with the upcoming release, Pioneer has scheduled a conference call for November 5 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time (10:00 a.m. Central Time).

What: Pioneer Drilling's Third Quarter 2009 Earnings Conference Call

When: Thursday, November 5, at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time

How: Live via phone by dialing 480-629-9692 and asking for the Pioneer Drilling call 10 minutes prior to the start time. Or live over the Internet by logging on to the web address below.

Where: www.pioneerdrlg.com

For those who cannot listen to the live call, a telephone replay will be available through Thursday, November 12, 2009 by calling (303) 590-3030 and using the pass code 4176067 #. A webcast replay will also be archived for one year in the investor relations section of the Company's web site at www.pioneerdrlg.com. For more information, please contact Donna Washburn at DRG&E at (713) 529-6600 or email dmw@drg-e.com.

About Pioneer Drilling Company

Pioneer Drilling Company provides contract land drilling services to independent and major oil and gas operators in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas, the Rocky Mountain and Appalachian regions and internationally in Colombia through its Pioneer Drilling Services Division. The Company also provides workover rig, wireline and fishing and rental services to producers in the U.S. Gulf Coast, Mid-Continent, Rocky Mountain and Appalachian regions through its Pioneer Production Services Division. Its fleet consists of 71 land drilling rigs that drill at depths ranging from 6,000 to 25,000 feet, 74 workover rigs (sixty-nine 550 horsepower rigs, four 600 horsepower rigs and one 400 horsepower rig), 61 wireline units, and fishing and rental tools.

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