

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation  
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company  
Well Name/Number: BR 34-7H  
Location: SW SE Section 7 T24N R53E  
County: Richland, MT; Field (or Wildcat) W/C

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time 50-60 days drilling time  
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) No, triple drilling rig to drill 2 horizontal legs  
No.115,423MD/9284'TVD No.2 15,527'MD/9284'TVD  
Possible H2S gas production no  
n/near Class I air quality area no  
Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive) n/a

Mitigation:

Air quality permit (AQB review)  
 Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas  
 Special equipment/procedures requirements  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: no special concerns.

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud use freshwater and freshwater mud system on surface and saltwater mud to TD.  
High water table no  
Surface drainage leads to live water no  
Water well contamination no, all water wells ID at 197' or less.  
Porous/permeable soils no, bentonite soils  
Class I stream drainage no

Mitigation:

Lined reserve pit  
 Adequate surface casing  
 Berms/dykes, re-routed drainage  
 Closed mud system  
 Off-site disposal of solids/liquids (in approved facility)  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: 800' of surface casing cemented to surface not adequate to protect freshwater zones will stipulate to set additional surface casing to cover base of Fox Hills formation. Also, fresh water mud systems to be used on surface hole. Reserve pit liquids to be recycled or hauled to a commercial disposal. Solids will be allowed to dry, pit liner folded over the top of the solids, spoil dirt to fill pit, top soil spread over pit area, and seeded to land owners specification.

**Soils/Vegetation/Land Use**

(possible concerns)  
Steam crossings none.  
High erosion potential no, small cut and fill required.  
Loss of soil productivity no, location will be restored after drilling  
Unusually large wellsite Large, 270'X400' location size required.  
Damage to improvements no  
Conflict with existing land use/values Slight  
Mitigation  
 Avoid improvements (topographic tolerance)  
 Exception location requested  
 Stockpile topsoil  
 Stream Crossing Permit (other agency review)  
 Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive  
 Special construction methods to enhance reclamation  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: no special concerns

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### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)  
Proximity to public facilities/residences None, no residences within a 1 mile of wellsite.  
Possibility of H2S no  
Size of rig/length of drilling time Triple drilling rig 50 to 60 days drilling time  
Mitigation:  
 Proper BOP equipment  
 Topographic sound barriers  
 H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan  
 Special equipment/procedures requirements  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: no concerns, residences beyond one mile distance Proper BOP stack and surface casing should be able to control any problems that occurs.

### Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)  
Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified) n/a None, identified  
Proximity to recreation sites None identified  
Creation of new access to wildlife habitat no  
Conflict with game range/refuge management no  
Threatened or endangered Species no  
Mitigation:  
 Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)  
 Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)  
 Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: no concerns

### Historical/Cultural/Paleontological

(possible concerns)

Proximity to known sites None identified

Mitigation

avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)

other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: on private land

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### Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

Substantial effect on tax base

Create demand for new governmental services

Population increase or relocation

Comments: no concerns

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### Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 2 legged horizontal Bakken formation test longest lateral will be 15,527'

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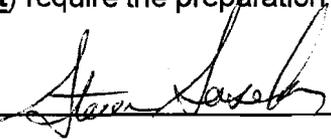
### Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

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I conclude that the approval of the subject Notice of Intent to Drill (does/does not) constitute a major action of state government significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and (does/does not) require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Prepared by (BOGC): Steven Sasaki 

(title:) Chief Field Inspector

Date: October 23, 2003

Other Persons Contacted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and Agency)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(subject discussed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_

Others present during inspection: \_\_\_\_\_