

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Burlington Resources Oil and Gas Co., L.P.
Well Name/Number: 31-23H
Location: NW NE 23 T25N, R52E (surface)
County: Richland, MT; Field (or Wildcat) W/C

Air Quality

(possible concerns)
Long drilling time no
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no
Possible H2S gas production no
In/near Class I air quality area no
Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive) no

Mitigation:

- Air quality permit (AQB review)
- Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas
- Special equipment/procedures requirements
- Other: _____

Comments: No special concerns, sweet gas

Water Quality

(possible concerns)
Salt/oil based mud Yes
High water table no
Surface drainage leads to live water no -intermittent drainage
Water well contamination no
Porous/permeable soils no
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: Deepest water well in the township is 260 feet; will use 12mil liner, 1000+' of surface casing is adequate to protect freshwater.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)
Stream crossings no
High erosion potential no
Loss of soil productivity no
Unusually large wellsite no
Damage to improvements no
Conflict with existing land use/values no

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: About 16.8' (maximum) cut required, 15' fill on low side

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)
Proximity to public facilities/residences n/a
Possibility of H2S not likely
Size of rig/length of drilling time

Mitigation:

- Proper BOP equipment
- Topographic sound barriers
- H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan
- Special equipment/procedures requirements
- Other: _____

Comments: no special concerns

Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified) no
Proximity to recreation sites none in immediate area
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 special concerns in this area

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: private - none identified

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

- Substantial effect on tax base
- Create demand for new governmental services
- Population increase or relocation

Comments: no special concerns

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Horizontal Bakken test - 640 TSU

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

Only minor, short term impacts associated with this project.

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): [Signature]
(title:) Administrator
Date: January 18, 2004

Other Persons Contacted:

N/A

(Name and Agency)
GWIC DATA BASE (Montana Tech)
(subject discussed)
registered water wells

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____