

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation  
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Ballard Petroleum Holdings LLC  
Well Name/Number: Willow Creek Ranch 22-12  
Location: SE NW Sec 12 T5S R20E  
County: Carbon, 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

Water Quality

(possible concerns)  
Salt/oil based mud Fresh water mud  
High water table no  
Surface drainage leads to live water no  
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: Surface casing OK.

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: location is on side hill-about 25' cut and 16' fill-3000' of new access road -location and road agreed to with landowner

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)  
Proximity to public facilities/residences > 1/2 mile  
possibility of H2S no  
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) none  
Proximity to recreation sites about 2 miles  
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, TLMD)
- Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: no special concerns - well is on private land with controlled access about 2 miles from Cooney reservoir

**Historical/Cultural/Paleontological**

(possible concerns)

Proximity to known sites none identified

Mitigation

- avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)
- other agency review (SHPO, TLMD, federal agencies)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: no special concerns

**Social/Economic**

(possible concerns)

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

Comments: no concerns

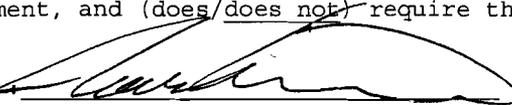
**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

Well is a 7900' Madison test.

**Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects**

Impacts are minor and short term.

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)   
(title:) Administrator  
Date: June 30, 2004

Other Persons Contacted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and Agency)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(subject discussed)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_  
Others present during inspection: \_\_\_\_\_