

**Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment**

Operator: Western Natural Gas Co.
Well Name/Number: Western No. 24-4 State B
Location: NW NW Section 24 T32N R1W
County: Toole MT; Field (or Wildcat) North Dunkirk

Air Quality

(possible concerns)
Long drilling time no, 3 to 4 days drilling time.
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no, 850' TD
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 – using small rig to drill to 850'

Water Quality

(possible concerns)
Salt/oil based mud no, freshwater, freshwater mud system, air, air mist.
High water table no
Surface drainage leads to live water None
Water well contamination no
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: Production casing will be set and cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones. Also, fresh water mud systems or air to be used.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)
Stream crossings no, stream crossings
High erosion potential no, small cut and fill required.
Loss of soil productivity no, location will be restored after drilling
Unusually large wellsite no, 200'X200' 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

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences None nearby

Possibility of H2S none

Size of rig/length of drilling time Small drilling rig/short 3 to 4 days drilling time

Mitigation:

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

Comments: no concerns

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 none identified

Conflict with game range/refuge management none identified

Threatened or endangered Species none identified

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 state land DNRC will perform an onsite EA.

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

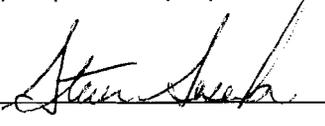
- Substantial effect on tax base
 - Create demand for new governmental services
 - Population increase or relocation
- Comments: _____ no concerns

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 850' Bow Island Formation test

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

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: August 31, 2004

Other Persons Contacted:

(Name and Agency)

(subject discussed)

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____