

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation Environmental Assessment

Operator: Bill Barrett Corporation
Well Name/Number: Horob 34-17H
Location: SW SE Section 17 T29N R59E
County: Roosevelt, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Wildcat

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time No, 30-40 days drilling time.
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) Triple derrick rig 900 HP
Possible H2S gas production None expected
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: Existing pipeline for gas in the area.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud yes to long string salt based drilling fluids. Surface casing and hoi zonal hole, freshwater, and freshwater mud system to be used.
High water table No
Surface drainage leads to live water no, close to an unnamed ephemeral drainage to the north of location.
Water well contamination None
Porous/permeable soils No, gumbo soils
Class I stream drainage No, Class I stream drainages.

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: 1650' surface casing well below freshwater zones in adjacent water wells. Also, covering Fox Hills aquifer. Adequate surface casing and BOP equipment to prevent problems in and around freshwater slough.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings None
High erosion potential No, location relatively flat.
Loss of soil productivity None, location to be restored after drilling well.
Unusually large wellsite No, large well site 280'X375'
Damage to improvements No, location to be restored after drilling.
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: _____

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences yes, east southeast 1/4 mile and to the northwest 3/4 mile.

Possibility of H2S Yes

Size of rig/length of drilling time Triple drilling rig 30 to 40 days drilling time.

Mitigation:

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

Comments: Adequate surface casing cemented to surface with working BOP stack should mitigate any problems.

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, existing access off county road.

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 surface

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

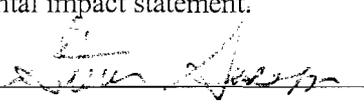
- Substantial effect on tax base
- Create demand for new governmental services
- Population increase or relocation

Comments: No concerns

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

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: September 24, 2004

Other Persons Contacted:

(Name and Agency)

(subject discussed)

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____