

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

Operator: Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company
Well Name/Number: BR/Fee 41-32H 52
Location: NE NE Section 32 T25N R52E
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 for Leg No. 1 13,873'

MD 8780' TVD Leg No.2 14,480'MD 8,780'TVD

Possible H2S gas production slight

n/near Class I air quality area no

Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive) Yes, DEQ permit required, if productive with associated gas and if gas gathering is not available

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 oil based drilling fluids and saltwater mud to TD.

High water table no

Surface drainage leads to live water Yes, location next to Duplisse Creek, an ephemeral drainage, 1/4 mile to the north of this location. Duplisse Creek eventually drains to East Redwater Creek 2 miles to the southwest.

Water well contamination no, all water wells shallower than 1150'.

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: 1150' of surface casing cemented to surface 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)

Stream crossings none.

High erosion potential no, small cut, up to 9.8' and small fill, up to 6.7' required.

Loss of soil productivity no, location will be restored after drilling, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite Large, 270'X400' location size required.

Damage to improvements slight

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: using existing state highway 201 and existing county road 310 access route to well site. Short access off existing trail of about 1/8 of a mile into this wellsite. No special concerns

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences None nearby, buildings about 3/4 mile to the southwest and 1 mile to the northeast of wellsite.

Possibility of H2S slight

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, 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: _____

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)
 Substantial effect on tax base
 Create demand for new governmental services
 Population increase or relocation
Comments: no concerns

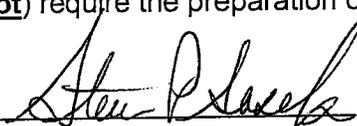
Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 14,480' , 2 legged horizontal Bakken formation test.

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impacts expected . Some short term impacts will occur.

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: January 16, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website
(Name and Agency)
Richland County water wells
(subject discussed)
January 16, 2006
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____