

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

Operator: Slawson Exploration Company, Inc.  
Well Name/Number: Comet 1-32H  
Location: SW SW Section 32 T26N R55E  
County: Richland, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Wildcat

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time No, 50-60 days drilling time.  
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) Triple derrick rig 900 HP  
Possible H2S gas production slight  
In/near Class I air quality area No  
Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive) Yes, if productive, DEQ air quality permit required.

Mitigation:

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

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**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud yes to long string salt based and oil based drilling fluids. Surface casing hole to be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud. Horizontal laterals to be drilled with brine water.  
High water table No  
Surface drainage leads to live water No, ephemeral drainage Hay Coulee is ¼ mile to the east of this location.  
Water well contamination No, all nearby water wells are less than 50' in depth. Surface hole will be drilled with freshwater and casing set to 1600' and cemented to surface.  
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: 1600 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 will require moderate cut of 11' and moderate fill of 12.2', required.

Loss of soil productivity None, location to be restored after drilling well, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite No, large well site 430'X300'

Damage to improvements No, location to be restored after drilling, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsited will be reclaimed.

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: Surface hole cuttings will be disposed of on drillsite. Main hole and lateral hole, oil based and brine cuttings will be buried in the lined reserve pit. Fluids will be recycled to the next location or recycled back to the mud company's storage tanks. Access will be over existing county road #143 and existing lease road. About 372' of new access road will be built off the county road into this location.

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### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences residence 1 1/2 mile to the northwest of the location

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: Adequate surface casing cemented to surface with working BOP stack should mitigate any problems. Distance sufficient to mitigate noise 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

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**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**

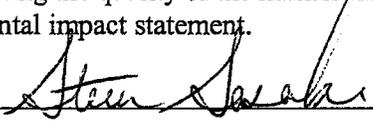
None

\_\_\_\_\_

**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 27, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

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(Name and Agency)

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center website.

(subject discussed)

Water wells in Richland County

(date)

January 27, 2006

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_

Others present during inspection: \_\_\_\_\_