

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Encore Operating, LP
Well Name/Number: Pine Unit 14X-03A
Location: SW SW Section 3 T11N R57E
County: Wibaux, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Pine

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time 15-25 days drilling time
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) No, triple drilling rig for 8000' TVD
Possible H2S gas production yes
n/near Class I air quality area no
Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive) No, water source well.

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 salt mud and oil based invert emulsion mud to TD.
High water table no
Surface drainage leads to live water No, closest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral drainage about 1/8 mile to the west of this location.
Water well contamination no, surface casing is below all known water wells in the area.
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: 1700' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones. Also, fresh water mud systems to be used on surface hole.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings none.
High erosion potential no, small cut, up to 9.3' and moderate fill, up to 13.5', required.
Loss of soil productivity no, unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed after well is drilled.

Unusually large wellsite Large, 270'X400' location size required.
Damage to improvements none
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: All of the access will be over existing county roads and trails. no special concerns 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.

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)
Proximity to public facilities/residences None, closest building is the Pine Gas Plant 1/2 mile to the south of this location in section 10.

Possibility of H2S yes
Size of rig/length of drilling time Triple drilling rig 15 to 25 days drilling time

Mitigation:

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

Comments: no special 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: Private surface. 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: 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

Well is a 8000' vertical Mission Canyon formation test.

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur. Water source well for the Pine Field injection system.

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: February 17, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Wibaux County water wells

(subject discussed)

February 17, 2006

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____