

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation  
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Montana Land and Exploration, Inc.  
Well Name/Number: ML&E Bowes No. 1B-9  
Location: NE NE Section 9 T32N R19E  
County: Blaine, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Wildcat

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)  
Long drilling time no, 2 to 3 days drilling time  
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no, 1160' TD  
Possible H2S gas production no  
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: no special concerns – using small rig to drill to 1160' TD

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)  
Salt/oil based mud no, freshwater, freshwater mud system and air.  
High water table no  
Surface drainage leads to live water no  
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: 150' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones and if productive 4 1/2" casing to be cemented back to surface. Also, fresh water mud systems to be used.

**Soils/Vegetation/Land Use**

(possible concerns)  
Stream crossings no, crossing intermittent dry drainages. Access over county roads most of the way.  
High erosion potential no, small cut, up to 0.6' and small fill, up to 7.1', 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 no, 104'X220' location size required.

Damage to improvements no, appears to be grassland.

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: Access over existing county roads and existing well access trail. Cuttings will be buried in the unlined reserve pit. Drilling fluids will be land spread with surface owner approval or recycled to the next drilling location. Pit will be backfilled when dry. No special concerns

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### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences None within 1 mile of this location

Possibility of H2S none

Size of rig/length of drilling time Small drilling rig/short 2 to 3 days drilling time

Mitigation:

Proper BOP equipment

Topographic sound barriers

H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan

Special equipment/procedures requirements

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: no concerns. Distance is sufficient to not be a problem with noise.

### Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified) n/a None identified.

Proximity to recreation sites no

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: on private land

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 1160' Eagle Formation test northeast of Bear Paw Mountains

**Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects**

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur, but can be mitigated in time.

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: March 15, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website.

(Name and Agency)

Blaine County waterwells.

(subject discussed)

March 15, 2006

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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