

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

**Operator:** Fidelity Exploration and Production Company  
**Well Name/Number:** State No. 2579  
**Location:** NW NE Section 36 T5N R60E  
**County:** Fallon, MT; **Field (or Wildcat)** Cedar Creek

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time no, 3 to 4 days drilling time.  
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no, 2000' TD  
Possible H2S gas production no  
In/near Class I air quality area no  
Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive) Yes, air quality permit required. DEQ issued permit.

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 2000'

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud no, freshwater and freshwater mud system.  
High water table no  
Surface drainage leads to live water no, closest drainage is Mud Creek, an ephemeral tributary to Little Beaver Creek. Location is about 1/4 of a mile to the east of this drainage.  
Water well contamination none, production string will be cemented back to surface.  
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. Also, fresh water mud systems to be used. Production casing will be cemented to surface.

**Soils/Vegetation/Land Use**

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings no  
High erosion potential no, small cut, up to 3' and small fill, up to 1.4', 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, 120'X190' 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: Access will be over existing county roads and well access roads. A short access will be built off the existing access road into this location, about 3/8 of a mile. Cuttings and mud solids will be buried in the earthen pits. Liquids will be trucked to a private stock pond with owners approval or allowed to dry in the pits. Pits will be backfilled after drying. No special concerns

### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences None nearby

Possibility of H2S none

Size of rig/length of drilling time Small drilling rig/short 3 to 4 days drilling time

Mitigation:

Proper BOP equipment

Topographic sound barriers

H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan

Special equipment/procedures requirements

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

Comments: no concerns

### 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: on Montana State Trust land. Trust Lands will do surface EA.

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: on Montana State Trust land. Trust Lands will do surface EA.

**Social/Economic**

(possible concerns)

Substantial effect on tax base

Create demand for new governmental services

Population increase or relocation

Comments: no concerns Development will in existing gas field, Cedar Creek Gas Field.

**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

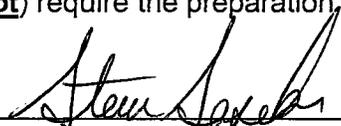
Well is a 2000' Eagle Formation test.

**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 23, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center

(Name and Agency)

Water wells in Fallon County

(subject discussed)

March 23, 2006

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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