

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
NORTHEASTERN LAND OFFICE

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DNRC NELO



STATE OF MONTANA

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HAVRE UNIT OFFICE
PO BOX 868
210 SIXTH AVENUE
HAVRE, MONTANA 59501-0868

March 10, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Clive Rooney, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office
Julie David, Supervisor, Mineral Leasing Section

FR: Dan Dobler, Havre Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office *D.P.*

RE: Devon Energy Production Company, LP – Lessee and Operator
State of Montana Oil & Gas Lease #32,689-98
Township 25 North, Range 18 East, M.P.M.
Section 16: E $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Blaine County, Montana
State 16-7 Well (SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$)
State Dir. 16-9 Well (NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$)

Devon Energy Production Company, LP (formerly known as Devon Louisiana Corporation) is proposing to drill two exploratory natural gas wells and construct access roads into the well sites on the above referenced tract of state land. I conducted an on-site inspection of the proposed natural gas wells and access roads with Brent Sande, Landman for Devon Energy Production. Dick Wortman is the state's surface lessee on this tract of state grazing land. Brent and I met with Dick at the proposed well sites to discuss any environmental concerns or livestock management issues that he may have had for this project. I have outlined my concerns and listed the mitigation measures that must be taken for this project within the drilling stipulations listed on the attached page. Devon Energy Production has settled surface damages with the Havre Unit Office and the state's surface lessee for the well pads and access roads in to these well sites.

Enclosed you will find an Environmental Assessment Checklist for your review. I have concluded in the EA Checklist, that no large-scale or negative impacts are expected on this tract of native grazing land, as long as Devon Energy Production Co. follows the stipulations that I have set in place for drilling the natural gas wells. If the natural gas wells are capable of commercial production, Devon Energy Production Co. will have to install gathering pipelines to transport the natural gas off the state land. Please review the EA Checklist, sign and date it, and return a finalized copy to me. Please forward a copy of the executed EA Checklist to Connie Daruk in Helena, so that she may forward it to the Environmental Quality Council. Enclosed you will also find two GIS maps with the drill pad areas plotted in. I am recommending that the Department issue Devon Energy Production Company, LP a permit to drill two exploratory natural gas wells and construct access roads into the well sites across this tract of state grazing land. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at the Havre Unit Office and I will be glad to assist you.

Enclosures: EA Checklist/ Drilling Stipulations/GIS Maps

10. All gates will be closed and all fences that are taken down will be repaired as soon as possible.
11. The topsoil removed from the sites must be located upslope from the project and used for covering the subsoil. Subsoil and excessive dirt must be located downslope from the project and used first for fill. This practice shall be used for installing the pipelines, if the wells are successful and capable of commercial production.
12. The access roads must be kept to their initial size in order to minimize the impact to the rangeland resource. Turn-arounds must be kept to their initial size and they are not to be expanded on. The tear drop must be as close to the drill pads as possible.
13. All disturbed areas shall be seeded with State of Montana Certified or Registered seed. The seed mixture shall be planted in the amounts specified in pounds of pure live seed per acre (PLS/acre). The seed mixture shall consist of 5 lbs. PLS/acre 'Rosana' western wheatgrass, 5 lbs. PLS/acre 'Pryor' slender wheatgrass, 4 lbs. PLS/acre 'Lodorm' green needlegrass, and 1 lb. PLS/acre yellow sweetclover (seed poundage is to be doubled if area is broadcast seeded). The seeding will be repeated until a satisfactory stand is established as determined by the Havre Unit Office.

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: State #16-7 Well (SW¼NE¼) & State Dir. #16-9 Well (NE¼SE¼) and Access Roads	Proposed Implementation Date: April 15 th , 2006
Proponent: Devon Energy Production Company, LP - State of Montana Oil & Gas Lessee and Operator, C/o Brent Sande, Landman, PO Box 1644, Havre, MT 59501	
Type and Purpose of Action: Devon Energy Production Company, LP (formerly known as Devon Louisiana Corporation) has proposed to drill two natural gas test wells and construct access roads into the well sites across a tract of state grazing land. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) is responsible for administrating all mineral activity on State School Trust lands. The State of Montana owns the mineral rights and the surface on this section of land, where the proposed wells would be drilled. If the natural gas wells are capable of commercial production, Devon Energy will have to bury gathering pipelines across this tract of grazing land to transport the natural gas off the state land. Royalties produced from the sale of natural gas will be split between Devon Energy and the Common School Trust for the State of Montana.	
Location: E½, N½NW¼; Sec. 16, T25N, R18E	County: Blaine County, Montana

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has been petitioned by Devon Energy to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads into the well sites on the above referenced tract of state land. The State of Montana owns the mineral rights and the surface in the location of the proposed natural gas wells. Brent Sande, Landman for Devon Energy has contacted the state's surface lessee, Dick Wortman, regarding their intentions to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land. If one or both of the natural gas wells are capable of commercial production, Devon Energy will have to bury gathering pipelines across this tract to transport the natural gas off the state land. Damages to the native range land resource will be settled with the Havre Unit Office and Dick Wortman prior to any drilling activity. If successful, the natural gas wells will generate additional revenue for the Common Schools Trust of State of Montana and Devon Energy in the form of royalties from the sale of natural gas.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The Montana DNRC/TLMD's; Havre Unit Office, Minerals Management Bureau, and the Montana Board of Oil and Gas are the only governmental agencies that have jurisdiction for this type of activity on State School Trust land. Devon Energy Production Co. will need to obtain the drilling permits for the natural gas wells from the Montana DNRC, prior to conducting any surface activities on this tract of state grazing land.

<p>3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:</p>	<p>Action Alternative: Grant Devon Energy permission to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads into the well sites across this tract of State School Trust land. Mitigation measures will be used to limit the impact to the native rangeland resource.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Deny Devon Energy permission to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of State School Trust land. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy a permit to drill two natural gas wells on this tract of state land.</p>
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II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
<p>4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed natural gas wells are located approximately 46 miles southwest of Chinook, Montana. Devon Energy will disturb the soils on this tract of state grazing land by drilling two natural gas wells and constructing access roads across this tract. The proposed natural gas wells are located on a gently rolling, short-grass prairie that has silty-clay loam and clay soils. The soils in this area are suitable for this type of activity. During construction of the site, mitigation measures will be used to stockpile the topsoil upslope from the project, so that it may be used for reclaiming the site. The subsoil and excessive dirt will be stockpiled in a separate pile, down-slope from the project and used first for fill. Devon Energy may have to blade portions of the rangeland for the proposed access roads, in order to get the drilling rig into the well sites. The topsoil will be scraped off and located upslope of the road to control erosion. There are no special reclamation considerations for the proposed project. No unusual geologic features are present in the area of the proposed disturbance. The Montana DNRC has already set up a reclamation plan for reclaiming the well sites and the access roads, if the wells are not capable of commercial production.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The soils on this tract of state grazing land will not be disturbed. The Montana DNRC will not need to issue a reclamation plan to Devon Energy. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state land.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?

Action Alternative: The project will have a minimal impact on surface and groundwater resources in the surrounding area. Drilling two natural gas wells will not impact the water quality, quantity, and distribution found in this area. The proposed natural gas wells are located in a rural area that is primarily used for livestock grazing purposes and wildlife habitat. There is no potential to violate any ambient water quality standards with this project. Drinking water will not be contaminated with this type of activity. The water quality will not be degraded in this area. Devon Energy's subcontractors will use water from an existing reservoir on deeded land for drilling the natural gas wells.

No Action Alternative: The water quality, quantity, and distribution currently found on this tract of state land will not be altered. Devon Energy's subcontractors will not use water from an existing reservoir on deeded land to drill the natural gas wells. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.

6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?

Action Alternative: Drilling two natural gas wells and constructing access roads into the well sites will produce some dust particulates, throughout the entire process of building the well sites and drilling the natural gas wells. The project is not influenced by air quality regulations or zones. Once the drill pads are completed and the gas wells are drilled, the air quality will return to normal. There will no longer be substantial traffic in and out of this tract of state land from the drilling crew or Devon Energy's subcontractors.

No Action Alternative: The air quality will not be impacted in this area. No dust particulates will be produced from the substantial traffic in and out of this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?

The vegetative communities found within the immediate area of the disturbance include the following plant species: western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), needle-and-thread (*Stipa comata*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), green needlegrass (*Stipa viridula*), sedges (*Carex spp.*), sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), cudweed sagewort (*Artemisia ludoviciana*), fringed sagewort (*Artemisia frigida*), dense clubmoss (*Selaginella densa*), silver sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*), big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), woods rose (*Rosa woodsii*), Rocky Mountain Juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*), and Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*).

Action Alternative: The vegetative communities found within the immediate area of the disturbance will be temporarily altered with this type of project. The proposed project area does not contain any rare plants or cover types. The area of disturbance is located on native rangeland. This area is primarily used for livestock grazing purposes and wildlife habitat. The topsoil excavated from the site will be stock piled upslope from the project and used last to cover the disturbed area for reclaiming the site. The area of disturbance will be reclaimed with a native seed mixture and sweetclover. The reclamation plan will be incorporated as a stipulation for the well drilling permit.

No Action Alternative: The vegetative communities currently found on this tract of state grazing land will not be altered. Native grasses, forbs, and shrubs will not be disturbed. Wildlife habitat will not be altered. The vegetative cover, quantity, and quality will remain in its natural state on this tract of state land. The topsoil will not be disturbed and there will be no need for a reclamation plan. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:
Is there substantial use of the area by important
wildlife, birds or fish?

Action Alternative: The habitat found in the immediate area of disturbance will be impacted with the construction of the drill pads and access roads. The area of disturbance will be small in scope and shall be reclaimed with the terms and conditions outlined within the well drilling stipulations provided by the Montana DNRC. Many different types of wildlife species use this area for habitat. Those species include elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, antelope, badger, skunk, the Columbian ground squirrel, red fox, coyote, as well as many different types of songbirds, upland game birds, and waterfowl. Wildlife species may be temporarily displaced, while the gas wells are being drilled. However, no wildlife species will be permanently relocated as a result of this project. The proposed project will not have any long-term impacts on wildlife species or their associated habitats that currently exist on this tract of state land.

No Action Alternative: The terrestrial and avian life and their associated habitats found within this area will not be disturbed. Wildlife and birds species will continue to use this area as they have in the past. These species will not be temporarily displaced by drilling the natural gas wells. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?

Action Alternative: The proposed natural gas wells and access roads will have a minimal impact on the unique, endangered, fragile, and limited environmental resources present in this area. There are no wetlands located within the immediate area of disturbance. No sensitive species or species of special concern will be threatened by this project. Listed, threatened, or endangered species will be able to migrate through this area with minimal impact. There is no confirmed use of this area by threatened or endangered species, however the potential of occasional use does exist.

No Action Alternative: The unique, endangered, fragile and limited environmental resources found on this tract of state grazing land will not be impacted. Sensitive species will not be threatened. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?

Action Alternative: Staff from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has inspected the proposed well sites and access roads for historical and archaeological resources. No cultural resources were observed within the areas of the proposed project. The proposed well sites and access roads are located on native rangeland. If historical or archaeological resources are discovered at any time during construction of the access road or the well site, the proponent will cease all activity and contact the MT DNRC's, Havre Unit Office (406)-265-5236.

No Action Alternative: There are no known historical or archaeological resources present in the area of the proposed project. Unknown historical or archaeological features under the surface will not be altered. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.

11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?

Action Alternative: If successful, the natural gas wells will become a prominent topographic feature. The sheds that house the well head and natural gas meters will be visible to the public. The project is located approximately 46 miles south of Chinook, Montana. The land is primarily used for livestock grazing purposes and wildlife habitat. The project will produce some excessive noise during the entire stages of drilling the natural gas wells. Once the wells are drilled, the noise levels will return to normal. The area of the proposed project is being developed for natural gas production. Several natural gas wells have already been drilled in the area.

No Action Alternative: The aesthetics that are currently found on this tract of state grazing land will not be impacted. The natural gas wells will not become a prominent topographic feature. This tract of grazing land will continue to be used solely for livestock grazing purposes and wildlife habitat. No excessive noise will be produced by the drilling rig and its crew. Wildlife species will not be temporarily displaced. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?

Action Alternative: This project will demand the environmental resources of natural gas and a small portion of land for the well sites and access roads. The demand on the environmental resources of air and water will be minimal. Once the project is completed, the proponent will reclaim the sites with the terms and conditions outlined within the well drilling stipulations provided by the Montana DNRC. If the wells are capable of commercial production, the proponent will need to install pipelines to transport the natural gas off the state land. There are no other activities nearby that will affect this project.

No Action Alternative: There will be no demands on the environmental resources of land, water, air, or energy that are currently found on this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?

Action Alternative: The Montana DNRC will continue to explore for natural gas resources on tracts of land that have mineral rights owned by the State of Montana. The mineral rights on this tract of land are owned by the State of Montana's, School Trust Fund and revenue brought in from these developments will continue to be used for educational purposes by the Common School Trust beneficiary. The MT DNRC will continue to explore and develop natural gas facilities as long as they are environmentally safe. The goal of the Montana DNRC/TLMD is to manage the State of Montana's trust land resources to produce revenue for the trust beneficiaries, while considering environmental factors and protecting the future income-generating capacity of the land. The Montana DNRC/TLMD will continue to administer and monitor the licensed grazing activity and set stocking rates on this tract of grazing land every ten years in accordance with Montana State Statute.

No Action Alternative: The project will not impact other studies, plans, or projects that the Montana DNRC has for this tract of land. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
<p>14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: Devon Energy, its subcontractors, and/or their employees understand the risks associated with drilling two natural gas wells. Devon Energy, its subcontractors, and their employees assume these risks as occupational hazards. This project will not add to the human health and safety risks found in this area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The project will not add to the health or human safety risks found in this area. Devon Energy will not assume any occupational hazards by not drilling the natural gas wells and constructing access roads into the well sites across this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.</p>
<p>15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: Drilling two natural gas wells and constructing access roads across this tract of state land will create additional industrial activity. If Devon Energy is successful in drilling two producing natural gas wells; the Common Schools Trust for the State of Montana will generate additional revenue through royalties from the sale of natural gas. The forage production on the rangeland will be temporarily reduced, due to the well pads and access roads. However, after the reclamation process is completed, forage production on this tract of grazing land will be enhanced in this area. In the long run, the reclamation plan to seed native grasses back into this area will increase the long-term productivity and enhance erosion control on these clay soils.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The industrial, commercial, and agricultural activities will not be altered on this tract of state land. There will be no additional revenue generated from royalties to the School Trust Fund or Devon Energy. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.</p>

<p>16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will provide Devon Energy with revenue generated by the sale of natural gas. The State of Montana's, School Trust Fund will benefit from royalties, through the sale of natural gas. This project will not move or eliminate jobs within the surrounding area. The project will provide Devon Energy's employees with additional work and income.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The quality and distribution of employment will be impacted in this area. Devon Energy is scheduled to drill several natural gas wells in this area. If they are not allowed to drill these wells on the state land, they will simply move on to the next well on the drilling schedule. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.</p>
<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will create additional tax revenue in Blaine County, if the wells are capable of commercial production. Therefore, the project will have an impact on the local and state tax base.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The local and state tax base will remain the same. Tax revenue will not be impacted in Blaine County by not drilling the natural gas wells. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.</p>
<p>18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will create some substantial traffic throughout the entire phase of drilling the natural gas wells and constructing the access roads. Devon Energy has been informed, as to where the access roads into the well sites will be placed. Devon's subcontractors may have to blade portions of the rangeland to get the rigs into the well sites. The project will not create a demand for government services. The project will not require the services of fire protection, police, or schools.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no additional demand for government services on this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC/TLMD will continue to monitor grazing management activity and set stocking rates for this tract of grazing land owned by the State of Montana. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.</p>

<p>19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not interfere with any other locally adopted environmental plans or goals that the Montana DNRC has for this tract of grazing land. No zoning plans will be in effect for the installation of two natural gas wells and access roads across this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC will continue to explore and develop natural gas facilities on lands that the State of Montana owns the mineral rights. Environmental Assessment Checklist's will continue to be the basis of conclusion for future development or further study of projects such as this.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There are no other known locally adopted environmental plans or goals for this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC will continue to work with natural gas companies to explore and develop natural gas production on tracts of land in which the State of Montana owns the mineral rights. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.</p>
<p>20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed natural gas wells are not located on a legally accessible tract of state land. The proposed project is surrounded by private land on all four sides. This tract of state land does have recreational potential for hunting, hiking, and bird watching. The main recreational activities that occur here are hunting and hiking. Access for recreational opportunities is limited by the surrounding landowners around this tract of state land. The natural gas wells and access roads will have a minimal impact on the recreational activities that may occur on this tract of state land in the future.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: This tract of state land is not legally accessible to the public for recreational purposes. The recreational potential for this tract of land will continue to be moderate. The Montana DNRC does have recreational authority, provided by the Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks on all tracts of state land. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.</p>

<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not add to the population or require additional housing. The density and distribution of population and housing will continue to be low in this rural area. The project will be completed in five to six days and the drill crew will leave the site. If the natural gas wells are successful, Devon Energy will have to bury gathering pipelines to transport the natural gas off the state land. This activity may require the presence of Devon employees for an additional week or two.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The density and distribution of population and housing will continue to be low in this rural ranching and farming community. The Montana DNRC/TLMD is the agency responsible for any surface and subsurface activity on this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or community's possible?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not disrupt any native or traditional lifestyles found within this rural area. Drilling two exploratory natural gas wells and constructing access roads across the native rangeland will not change the social structures and mores found in this area. Natural gas exploration, development, and production are already somewhat high in this area. Devon Energy has been really responsible for their actions and they are willing to do whatever it takes to make people happy and get the job done right.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The native and traditional lifestyles will not be impacted in this rural ranching and farming community. The people who live in this area have natural gas wells on their own lands and collect royalties as well. The native and traditional lifestyles found in this area will continue to remain the same. The Montana DNRC will not issue Devon Energy Production Co. a permit to drill two natural gas wells and construct access roads across this tract of state grazing land.</p>

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	N.S., I.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By: Clive Rooney
Name

Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office
Title


Signature

3/13/6
Date

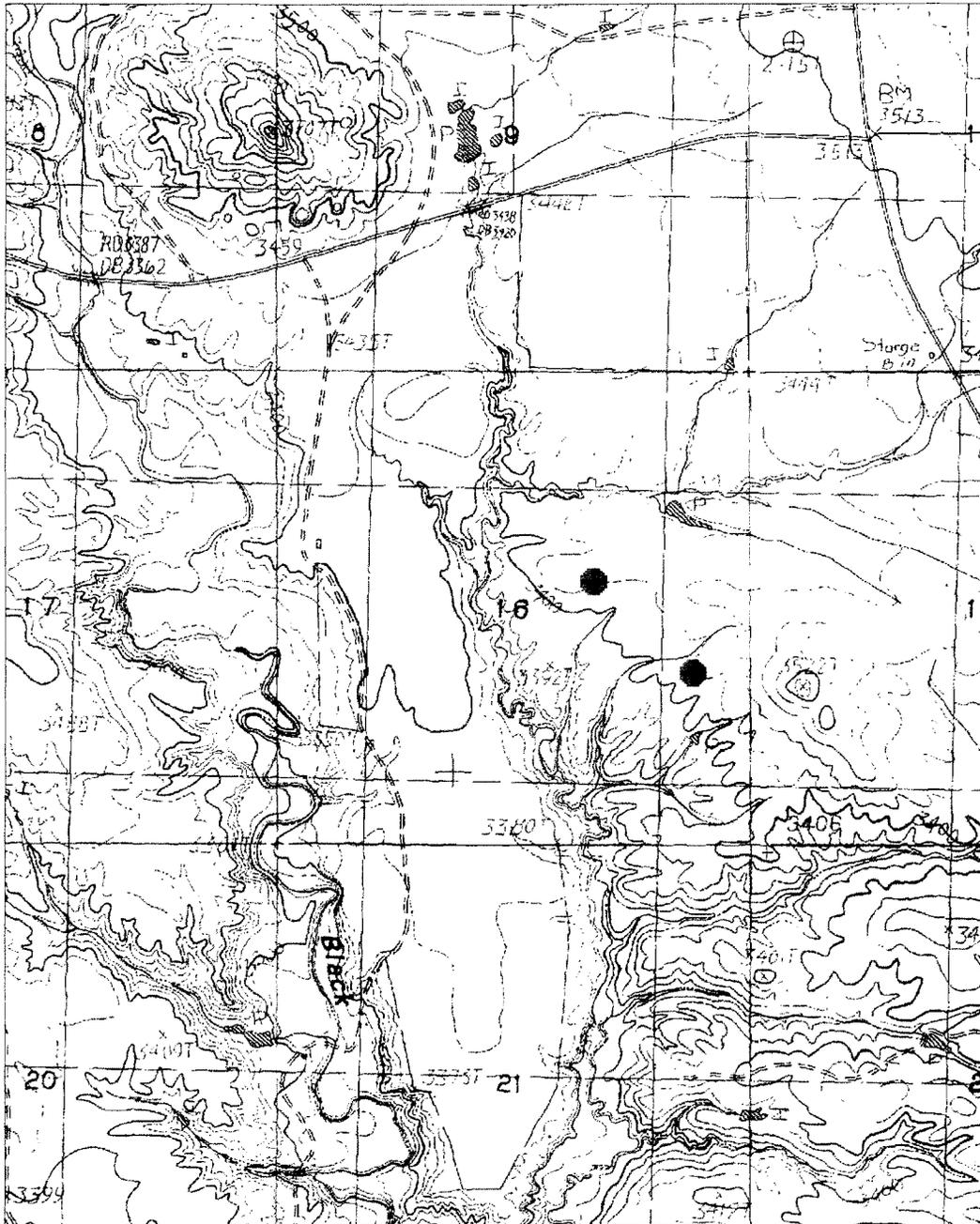
State of Montana

Natural Gas Exploratory Well Drilling Stipulations for Oil & Gas Lease #32,689-98

State #16-7 Well (SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$) & State Dir. 16-9 Well (NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$)

Blaine County, Montana

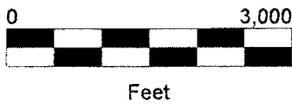
1. The permittee shall contact the Havre Unit Office, PO Box 868, Havre, MT 59501, (406) 265-5236, 48 hours prior to any surface activity.
2. The permittee shall contact the state's surface lessee, Dick Wortman, 940 Snake Hill Lane, Lloyd, MT 59535-9702, 48 hours prior to any drilling activity. The permittee shall settle all surface damages within a reasonable time period following the completion of the natural gas well.
3. The permittee shall be responsible for controlling any noxious weeds introduced by the permittee's activity on the state land and shall prevent or eradicate the spread of those noxious weeds onto deeded land adjoining the premises.
4. The permittee shall also be responsible for controlling all annual weeds around the well sites, access roads, and pipeline routes across this tract of state grazing land.
5. This tract of state land does not contain any known archaeological, historical, or paleontological resources in the area adjacent to the proposed disturbance. However, if any of these resources are located in the area of the proposed disturbance, the permittee shall cease all drilling activity and contact the appropriate Area Office, Unit Office, and Department Archaeologist in Helena immediately. The Department reserves the right to restrict surface activity for the purposes of protecting significant cultural resources.
6. In order to prevent the introduction of noxious weeds on this tract of state land, all equipment used on this project must be initially power washed prior to use.
7. Natural gas drilling and service activity may occur on dry or frozen ground only. No activity will be allowed during muddy conditions.
8. No vehicle oil changes or petroleum disposal shall occur on this tract of state land.
9. There will be no off-road traffic other than that necessary to accomplish the gas well drilling and construction of the access roads into the well sites.



Devon Louisiana Corporation
 State 16-7-25-18 Well (SWNE) &
 State DIR 16-9-25-18 Well ((NESE))

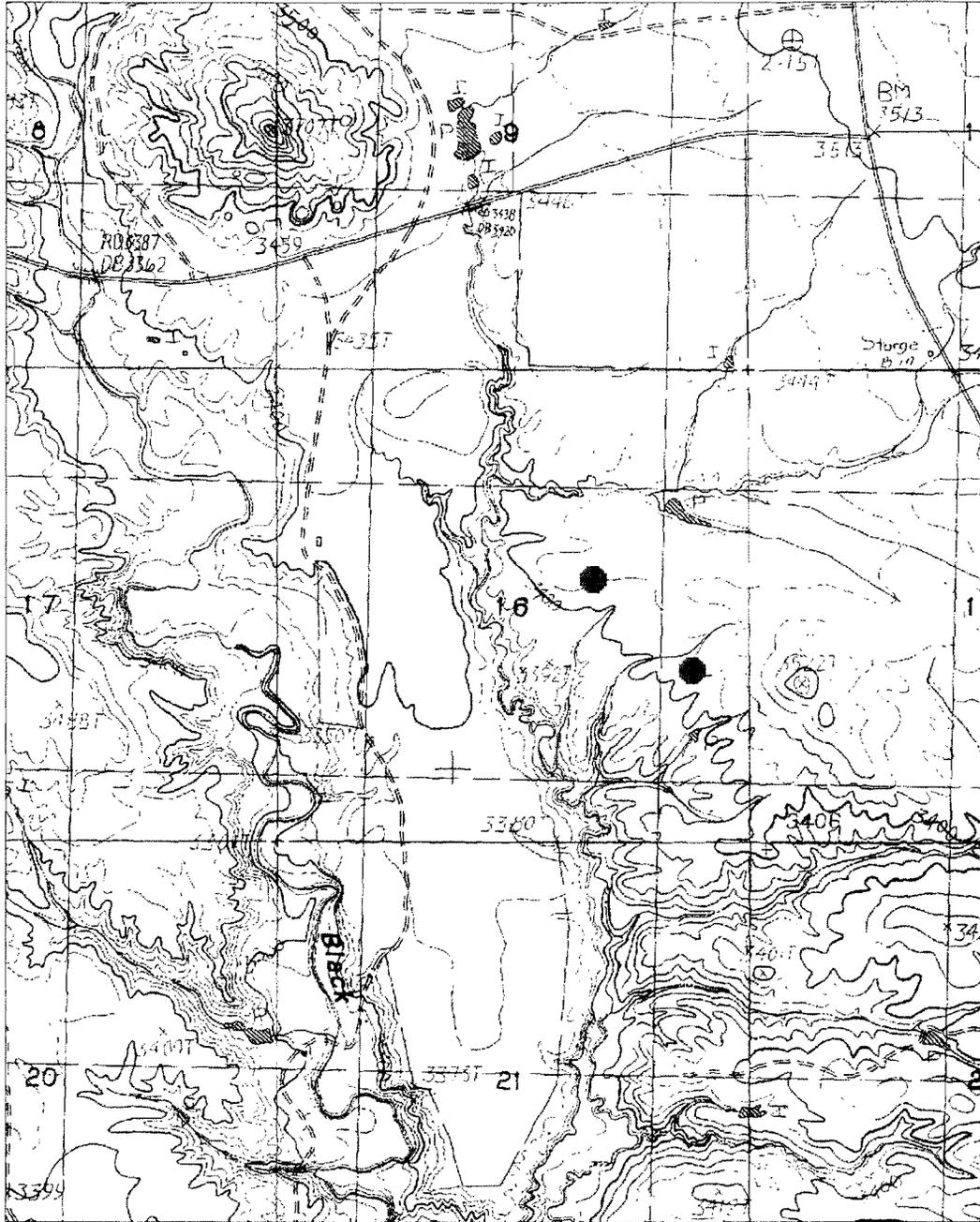
US State Plane 1983
 Montana 2500
 NAD 1983 (Conus)

Scale 1:24,000



D-State 16-7 .16-9 Wells.cor
 2/3/2006





Devon Louisiana Corporation
 State 16-7-25-18 Well (SWNE) &
 State DIR 16-9-25-18 Well ((NESE))

US State Plane 1983
 Montana 2500
 NAD 1983 (Conus)

Scale 1:24,000



Feet

D-State 16-7_16-9 Wells.cor
 2/3/2006

GPS Pathfinder® Office



