

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

Operator: J. Burns Brown Operating Company
Well Name/Number: Springer 31-34-14D
Location: SE NW Section 31T35N R14E
County: Hill, MT; **Field (or Wildcat)** W/C

Air Quality

(possible concerns)
Long drilling time no, 3 to 4 days drilling time
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no, 1800' TD
Possible H2S gas production no
In/near Class I air quality area no
Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive) Yes, DEQ air quality permit required, Rule 75-2-211.

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 1800'

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, note closest drainage is Miller Coulee is about 1/8 of a mile to the east of this location, appears to be an ephemeral drainage that connects with Fresno Reservoir about 3/4 of a mile to the southwest.
Water well contamination none nearby.
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.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)
Steam crossings no
High erosion potential no, small cut, up to 1' and small fill, up to 2', required.

Loss of soil productivity no, location will be restored after drilling, in nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite no, 250'X250' 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 state highway, county roads and existing trails. About 2000' of new access will be built from an existing trail into this location. Disposition of drill cuttings and solids will be buried in the unlined earthen pits. Drilling fluids will be trucked to a nearby stock pond and used to seal the pond with surface owner approval. The pits will be closed when dry. no special concerns

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences None nearby, closest residence 2 mile to the northwest and ¾ of a mile to the southeast of location.

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

Proximity to recreation sites Fresno Reservoir ½ mile to the west.

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

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 1800' Eagle formation test

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur, but will 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 27, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website
(Name and Agency)
Hill County water wells
(subject discussed)

March 27, 2006
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____