

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

**Operator:** Altamont Oil & Gas, Inc.  
**Well Name/Number:** Roy Powers No. 28-3  
**Location:** NE SW Section 28 T29N R5W  
**County:** Pondera MT; Field (or Wildcat) Lake Frances Gas

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)  
Long drilling time no, 3 to 4 days drilling time.  
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no, 2100' 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 under 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 2100'

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)  
Salt/oil based mud no, freshwater, freshwater mud system, air, air mist.  
High water table no  
Surface drainage leads to live water No, location flat. Nearest ephemeral drainage is Miller Coulee drainage 1/8 mile to the south of location eventually leads to the Dry Fork of the Marias 4.5 miles to the east. Lake Frances is 2 miles to the north of location.  
Water well contamination no, all water wells within 1 1/2 miles are shallower than 600'.  
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: 600' of surface casing will be set and cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones. Also, fresh water mud systems or air/mist to be used.

**Soils/Vegetation/Land Use**

(possible concerns)  
Stream crossings no, stream crossings

High erosion potential no, moderate cut, up to 12.4' and moderate fill, up to 16.1, 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, 200'X200' location size required.

Damage to improvements slight, surface use is CRP.

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 is via county road. About 3300' of access off county road will have to be constructed into location. Drill cuttings will be buried in the existing cuttings pit. Drilling fluids will be allowed to evaporate. No special concerns

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### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences None nearby. Closest residence/ buildings 3/8 of a mile to the south and 0.75 miles to the northeast of this 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 None identified.

Proximity to recreation sites Lake Frances 2 miles to the northeast

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat none identified

Conflict with game range/refuge management none identified

Threatened or endangered Species none identified

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, private surface

Mitigation

avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)

other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)

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

Comments: Private surface

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**Social/Economic**

(possible concerns)

Substantial effect on tax base

Create demand for new governmental services

Population increase or relocation

Comments: no concerns

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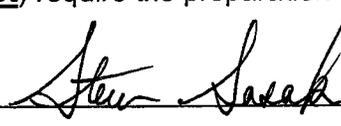
**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

Well is a 2100' Bow Island Formation test within the Lake Frances gas field. This is a development well.

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

No, significant impacts expected, some short term impacts are expected, but should be able to mitigate these short term impacts.

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 31, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Pondera County water wells

(subject discussed)

March 31, 2006

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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