

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

Operator: Fidelity Exploration and Production Company
Well Name/Number: Fee No. 2587
Location: SW NE Section 31T6N R61E
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, 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 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 yes, small unnamed ephemeral tributary drainage to Little Beaver Creek, about 1/4 of a mile west of this location. This tributary drainage has a confluence with Little Beaver Creek about 2.5 miles to the southeast.
Water well contamination none, no wells within 1 mile of this location.
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 none
High erosion potential no, moderate cut, up to 11.1' and small fill, up to 0.5', 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: Using existing roads to gas wells. Building about 1/8 mile of new access to this location. Cuttings will be buried in the earthen reserve pit. Drilling fluids will be hauled to a nearby stock pond for disposal with surface owner approval. Drilling pits will be allowed to dry before being backfilled. 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: 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 Development well within an existing gas field, Cedar Creek Gas Field.

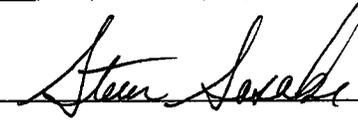
Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

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. This well is being drilled in an existing gas field.

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: April 2, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center

(Name and Agency)
Water wells in Fallon County

(subject discussed)
April 2, 2006

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____