

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

Operator: Enerplus Resources (USA) Corporation
Well Name/Number: Natasha-Robert 1-16-H
Location: SE SE Section 1 T23N R57E
County: Richland, MT; **Field (or Wildcat)** Wildcat

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time No, 30-40 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) Triple derrick rig 900 HP, Bakken horizontal MD 19,942'

Possible H₂S gas production slight

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: Existing pipeline for gas in the area.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud yes to long string and horizontal section to be drilled with oil based drilling fluids.

Surface casing hole to be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud.

High water table Possible

Surface drainage leads to live water Yes, stock reservoir about 1/8 of a mile to the northeast built in the North Fork of Lone Tree Creek drainage.

Water well contamination No, all water wells close by are shallower than 2000'. Surface hole will be drilled with freshwater and casing set and cemented back to surface from 2000'.

Porous/permeable soils No, gumbo soils

Class I stream drainage No, Class I stream drainages.

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: 2000'+/- surface casing well below freshwater zones in adjacent water wells. Also, covering Fox Hills aquifer. Adequate surface casing and BOP equipment to prevent problems in and around freshwater slough.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Steam crossings None
High erosion potential No, location has a moderate cut, up to 14.2' and small fill, up to 8.6' required.
Loss of soil productivity None, location to be restored after drilling well.
Unusually large wellsite No, large well site 420'X310'
Damage to improvements No, location to be restored after drilling.
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: Existing county roads, 129 and existing trails will be utilized to reach this location. Some dirt work to up grade the existing trails will be required. A short access road of about 841' of new road will be constructed from the existing trail into this location.

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences closest residence is 3/8 of a mile to the northwest of this location and Midway Community Center is about 2 of a mile to the northwest of this location.

Possibility of H2S Slight

Size of rig/length of drilling time Triple drilling rig 30 to 40 days drilling time.

Mitigation:

- Proper BOP equipment
- Topographic sound barriers
- H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan
- Special equipment/procedures requirements
- Other: _____

Comments: Adequate surface casing cemented to surface with working BOP stack should mitigate any problems. Distance sufficient to mitigate noise.

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: Private surface

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

Substantial effect on tax base

Create demand for new governmental services

Population increase or relocation

Comments: No concerns

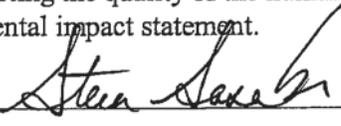
Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

TVD 10,380' MD 14, 942' Bakken Formation horizontal well

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impacts expected, some short term impacts will occur.

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 1, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

(Name and Agency)

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center website

Richland County water wells

(subject discussed)

April 2, 2006

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____