

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

Operator: Enerplus Resources (USA) Corporation  
Well Name/Number: Lone Tree-Bob-12-13-HLID3  
Location SW SW Section 12 T23N R56E  
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  
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.

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**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud yes, salt based and/or oil based drilling fluids to be used to drill the main hole.  
Surface casing hole to be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud.  
High water table No  
Surface drainage leads to live water No, closest ephemeral drainage is unnamed ephemeral tributary drainage to Lone Tree Creek, 1/8 of a mile to the east of this location.  
Water well contamination No, closest water wells are very shallow in depth, less than 2000' in depth.  
Surface hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater muds.  
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, small cut, up to 5.0' and small fill, up to 10.0', required.

Loss of soil productivity None, location to be restored after drilling well, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite No, large well site 450' X 310'

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 to this location will be over existing county road, #128. About 200' of new access road will be built into this location. Cuttings will be buried in the lined reserve pit. Drilling fluids will be recycled and/or hauled to a commercial Class II disposal. Pit will be squeezed with clay subsoils.

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### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences residence 3/4 of a mile to the west and 1 1/4 of a mile southeast 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.

### 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

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**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

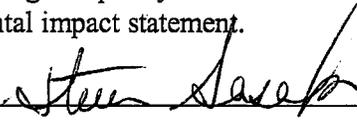
**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

Horizontal Bakken formation well TVD 10,396' MD 15,920'. Second well to this spacing unit.

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

No long term impacts expected. Some short term surface 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: May 18, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Richland County waterwells

(subject discussed)

May 18, 2006

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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