

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND CONSERVATION  
BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION

BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION DIVISION



STATE OF MONTANA

December 31, 2007

Mr. Todd Everts  
Environmental Quality Council  
Room 106, State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

**RECEIVED**

JAN 03 2008

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY OFFICE

Re: Environmental Assessment Reports

Dear Todd:

Enclosed please find a copy of the environmental assessments completed by this office covering the period from October 1 through December 31, 2007 with regard to applications for permits to drill oil or gas wells on state and privately owned lands in the State of Montana.

Let us know if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Richmond  
Administrator

km

Encs. 150

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201 MAIN STREET  
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**Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation  
Environmental Assessment**

**Operator:** Devon Energy Production Company  
**Well Name/Number:** Kane No. 5-5A  
**Location:** SWNW Section 5 T30N R18E  
**County:** Blaine, MT; **Field (or Wildcat):** Tiger Ridge Field

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)  
Long drilling time: No, 3-4 days drilling time  
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, 2500' TD, single derrick drilling rig.  
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 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 2500'

**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, nearest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral tributary to Clear Creek, about 1/16 of a mile to the west and east of this location.  
Water well contamination: No, no water wells within 1 mile of this location. . Production string will be cemented back to surface.  
Porous/permeable soils: No, silty sandy bentonitic 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, will utilize existing farm crossing.  
High erosion potential: Yes, no cut required and small fill required, 6.0', 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, 250'X250' location size required.

Damage to improvements: No, appears to be cultivated land.

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 county roads and existing ranch access roads. About 3/8 of mile of new access road will be built into this location off an existing ranch access road. Cuttings and mud solids will be buried in the existing drilling pits and reserve pit. Fluids will either be allowed to dry in the pit or trucked to a private stock pond with surface owners approval. Pit will be backfilled when dry. No special concerns

### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Residences, about 0.5 miles and 1.25 miles to the northwest and 1.75 miles to the west 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): 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. Private surface lands.

**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: No concerns. On private lands.

**Social/Economic**

(possible concerns)

Substantial effect on tax base

Create demand for new governmental services

Population increase or relocation

Comments: No concerns. Development gas well within the Tiger Ridge Gas Field.

**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

Well is a 2500' Eagle Formation test north side of Bear Paw Mountains

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

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur, but can be mitigated in a short 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: October 4, 2007

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center

(Name and Agency)

Blaine County water wells.

(subject discussed)

October 4, 2007

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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

W. H. ...  
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