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

RECEIVED

JAN 0 3 2008

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE

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

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

DIVISION OFFICE
1625 ELEVENTH AVENUE
PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601
(406) 444-6675

TECHNICAL AND
SOUTHERN FIELD OFFICE
2535 ST. JOHNS AVENUE
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59102-4693
(406) 656-0040

NORTHERN FIELD OFFICE
201 MAIN STREET
PO BOX 690
SHELBY, MONTANA 59474-0690
(406) 434-2422

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Highline Exploration, Inc.
Well Name/Number: L. Davenport 26-12
Location: SE SW Section 12T1S R31E
County: Big Horn **, MT; Field (or Wildcat)** Toluca

Air Quality

(possible concerns)
Long drilling time: No, 2 to 3 days drilling time.
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, 880' TD
Possible H2S gas production: None
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:
X Air quality permit (AQB review)
__ Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas
__ Special equipment/procedures requirements
__ Other:
Comments: No special concerns – using single rig to drill to 880' TD.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)
Salt/oil based mud: No, freshwater/freshwater mud to drill surface hole. Air to drill from under surface casing to total depth.
High water table: No
Surface drainage leads to live water: Yes, closest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral tributary to Williams Coulee an ephemeral drainage also, about 1/4 of a mile northeast from this location. Within this unnamed tributary are stock ponds.
Water well contamination: No, closest water wells are over 1.5 miles away . Surface casing will be set at 80'. Drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud. Surface casing will be run and cemented to surface from 80'.
Porous/permeable soils: No, silty sandy bentonitic soils.
Class I stream drainage: No

Mitigation:
__ Lined reserve pit
X Adequate surface casing
__ Berms/dykes, re-routed drainage
__ Closed mud system
__ Off-site disposal of solids/liquids (in approved facility)
__ Other:
Comments: 80' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)
Steam crossings: No, crossing.
High erosion potential: No, cut or fill need. Small single self leveling rig will be used.

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, 100'X100' location size required.
Damage to improvements: No, surface use is grassland.
Conflict with existing land use/values: Slight

Mitigation
__ Avoid improvements (topographic tolerance)
__ Exception location requested
_X_ Stockpile topsoil
__ Stream Crossing Permit (other agency review)
_X_ Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive
__ Special construction methods to enhance reclamation
__ Other _____

Comments: Will use existing county freeway frontage road and existing ranch trail. About 3/8 of a mile of new access road will be built from the a ranch trail, into this location. Cutting will be buried in the earthen pits. Pits will be backfilled when dry. No special concern.

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)
Proximity to public facilities/residences: Closest buildings are 5.5 miles to the southeast and the town of Hardin is about 10.5 miles to the southeast of this location.
Possibility of H2S: None
Size of rig/length of drilling time: Single drilling rig 2 to 3 days drilling time

Mitigation:
__ Proper BOP equipment
__ Topographic sound barriers
__ H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan
__ Special equipment/procedures requirements
_X_ Other: Will use a diverter instead of a BOP. Due to the low pressure gas zone anticipated.

Comments: No concerns

Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)
Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): None identified.
Proximity to recreation sites: None identifieds
Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: No
Conflict with game range/refuge management: No
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: On private lands. 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 lands. No concerns.

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)
__ Substantial effect on tax base
__ Create demand for new governmental services
__ Population increase or relocation
Comments: On private lands. No concerns

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 880' Frontier (Belle Fourche) Formation test.

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impact 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: October 10, 2007

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website
(Name and Agency)
Big Horn County water wells
(subject discussed)
October 10, 2007
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:
Inspection date: _____
Inspector: _____
Others present during inspection: _____