

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment

Operator: MRC LLC
Well Name/Number: Brown 14-30
Location: SE SW Section 30 T37N R4E
County: Liberty MT; Field (or Wildcat) ~~Wildcat~~ (Whitlash)

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 3 to 4 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, small single derrick drilling rig to drill to 2765' 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 2765'TD.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: No, freshwater, freshwater mud system.

High water table: No

Surface drainage leads to live water: Yes, closest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral drainage to Sears Coulee, also an ephemeral drainage. The location is adjacent to this unnamed ephemeral drainage. Within Sears Coulee drainage there is a stock water pond.

Water well contamination: No, all water wells less than 490' deep. Closest water well is a stock water well, about 5/8 of a mile to the north and of this location. Surface hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud. Steel surface casing will be set from 490' and cemented to surface to protect groundwater.

Porous/permeable soils: No, sandy bentonitic soils.

Class I stream drainage: None

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: 490' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones. Also, freshwater and fresh water mud systems to be used. 4 1/2" production casing will be cemented to surface.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: No, stream crossings.

High erosion potential: No, small cut, up to 2.2' and small fill, up to 5.0', 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, 150'X150' location size required.

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface is grassland.

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 road, #409. And using existing well access roads. About 360' of new access will be built into this location. Drilling muds and solids will be allowed to dry in the pits. Pits will be backfilled when dry. No special concerns.

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Brown Ranch is 1.75 miles to the northwest and Demarest Ranch is about 1 mile to the south of this location. The town of Whitlash is about 1.5 miles to the southeast 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. Distance and topographical features should mitigate any noise issues.

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: None identified.

Mitigation:

Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)

Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)

Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite

Other: _____

Comments: Private surface 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: Private surface lands. No concerns.

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

Substantial effect on tax base

Create demand for new governmental services

Population increase or relocation

Comments: No concerns.

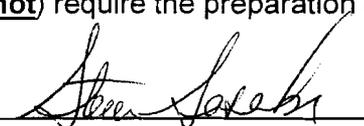
Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 2765' TVD Rierdon Formation test.

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 23, 2007

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Liberty County water wells

(subject discussed)

October 23, 2007

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____

10-23-07