Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Altamont Oil & Gas, Inc. _____
Well Name/Number: Vandenbos 19-2
Location: NE SW Section 19 T29N R5W _____
County: Pondera **MT; Field (or Wildcat)** Wildcat

Air Quality

(possible concerns)
Long drilling time: No, 3 to 4 days drilling time.
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, 2300' 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:
X 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 2300' TD.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)
Salt/oil based mud: No, freshwater, freshwater mud system, air, air mist.
High water table: No
Surface drainage leads to live water: Yes, unnamed ephemeral drainage to Lake Frances, about 1/16 of a mile to the south of this location. Surface slopes to the northeast towards Lake Frances and is about 2 miles from this location. Appears within this drainage there are stock ponds.
Water well contamination: No, all water wells within 1 mile are shallower that 200'. Surface casing will be drilled with air and/or freshwater mud to 600' and steel surface casing set and cemented to surface from 600'. Closest water wells are about 1/2 of a mile to the southeast and ¾ of a mile to the northeast of this wellsite and is 160' in depth or less.
Porous/permeable soils: Yes, sandy gravelly 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: 600' of surface casing will be set and cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones. Also, fresh water mud systems or air to be used.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)
Steam crossings: No, stream crossings.
High erosion potential: No, small cut, up to 2.2' and small fill, up to 7.6', 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, 200'X200' location size required.
Damage to improvements: No, surface use is cultivated (CRP).
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: Access will be over existing county road, West Hts. Road and existing well trail. A short road will be constructed, about1/8 of a mile into this location. Drill cuttings will be buried in the unlined cuttings pit. Drilling fluids will be allowed to evaporate in the pits. No special concerns.

_____

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)
Proximity to public facilities/residences: Closest residence buildings about 5/8 of a mile to the west of this location. Buildings about 3/8 of a mile to the south of this location. No concerns.
Possibility of H2S: None
Size of rig/length of drilling time: Small drilling rig/short 3 to 4 days drilling time

Mitigation:
X 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: Lake Frances about 2 miles to the northeast.
Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: None identified.
Conflict with game range/refuge management: None identified
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: No concerns

Historical/Cultural/Paleontological

(possible concerns)
Proximity to known sites: None identified, private surface.

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 2300' Bow Island Formation test.

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No, significant impacts expected, some short term impacts are expected, but should be able to mitigate these short term impacts.

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 24, 2007

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website
(Name and Agency)

Pondera County water wells
(subject discussed)
October 24, 2007
(date)

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