

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

**Operator:** Devon Energy Production Company, L.P.  
**Well Name/Number:** Blackwood No. 12-5  
**Location:** SW NW Section 12 T30N R17E  
**County:** Blaine, MT; **Field (or Wildcat):** Tiger Ridge Field

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No  
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, 2500' TD.  
Possible H<sub>2</sub>S 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' TD.

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: No, freshwater and freshwater mud system.  
High water table: Possible  
Surface drainage leads to live water: Yes, nearest live water is Clear Creek, about 1/32 of a mile to the south of this location.  
Water well contamination: No, water wells within 1 mile of this location. Surface hole will be drilled with freshwater and surface casing set at 150', cemented to surface. Production string will be cemented back to surface.  
Porous/permeable soils: No, 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

High erosion potential: Possibly, moderate cut, up to 14' and small fill, up to 4', 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 grazing land.

Conflict with existing land use/values: No

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, Clear Creek Road and existing trails. About 1/16 of a mile of access trail will be built into this location off an existing trail. Cuttings will be disposed of in the unlined earthen pits. Drilling fluids will be trucked to nearby stock pond and disposed of with surface owner approval. Pit will be allowed to dry then backfilled. No special concerns.

### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: about ¼ of a mile to the west and 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

### 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: On 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: Private surface lands. No concerns.

---

---

**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

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

---

---

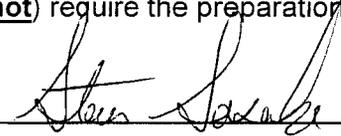
**Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects**

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: May 5, 2008

---

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center  
(Name and Agency)

Blaine County water wells.  
(subject discussed)  
May 5, 2008  
(date)

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