

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

Operator: Devon Energy Production Company
Well Name/Number: Hofeldt-DIR No. 11-9
Location: NE SE Section 11 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' TVD/2750'TMD, 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'TVD/2750'TMD.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)
Salt/oil based mud: No, freshwater and freshwater mud system.
High water table: No
Surface drainage leads to live water: No, nearest drainage is an ephemeral tributary drainage, Bean Creek 3/8 of a mile to the northwest of this location.
Water well contamination: No, no water wells within 1 mile of this location.
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, if productive.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)
Stream crossings: None
High erosion potential: No, small cut required up to 9.0' and small fill, up to 1.0', 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: Slight

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, Llyod Road and existing ranch road. About 1/2 of a mile of new access road will be built into this location off the existing ranch road. Cutting will be buried in the unlined pits. Drilling fluids will be offsite disposed of in a stock pond for sealant, with surface owner approval. Pits will be allowed to dry before being backfilled. No special concerns.

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Yes, closest residences are about 5/8 of a mile to the southeast and 3/4 of a mile to the southwest 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: 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.

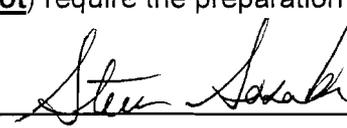
Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 2500'TVD/2750'TMD 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 15, 2008

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center
(Name and Agency)
Blaine County water wells.
(subject discussed)
May 15, 2008
(date)

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