

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

**Operator:** Slawson Exploration Company, Inc.  
**Well Name/Number:** Squadron No. 1-15-14H  
**Location:** NW NW Section 15 T26N R59E  
**County:** Roosevelt, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Wildcat

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 30-35 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): Triple derrick drilling rig to drill to 19,039' MD/10,218' TVD.

Possible H2S gas production: Slight chance of H2S gas production.

In/near Class I air quality area: No Class I air quality area in the area of review.

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: Triple derrick drilling rig to drill a single lateral horizontal Bakken Formation test, 19,039' MD/10,218' TVD.

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: Yes to intermediate casing string hole to be drilled with oil based invert drilling fluids. Horizontal lateral will be drilled with produced brine water. Surface casing hole to be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud.

High water table: No high water table anticipated.

Surface drainage leads to live water: Yes, closest drainage is the Missouri River, about 1/2 of a mile to the southwest from this location.

Water well contamination: No, closest water wells are about 3/8 of a mile to the southeast, 1/2 of a mile to the east southeast from this location, 1/2 of a mile to the north northwest and all other wells nearby range from 5/8 to 3/4 of a mile away from this location.. Depth of these wells range from 64' to 813'. Surface casing will be drilled with freshwater, casing set to 1631' and steel casing set at 1631' and cemented back to surface to protect groundwaters.

Porous/permeable soils: Yes, sandy silty clay soils.

Class I stream drainage No, Class I stream drainage.

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: 1631' of surface casing will be set well below freshwater zones in adjacent water wells. Also, covering Base of the Fox Hills aquifer. Surface hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater drilling fluids to 1631'+. Steel surface casing will be run and cemented to surface from 1631'.

**Soils/Vegetation/Land Use**

(possible concerns)

Steam crossings: None anticipated.

High erosion potential: No, location will require small cut, up to 1.5' and no fill, up to 0.0', required.

Loss of soil productivity: Slight, location to be restored after drilling well if well is nonproductive. If productive unused portion of wellsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite: No, location is a large wellsite, 450'X350' in size.

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface use is an irrigated field.

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: Requires DEQ General Permit for Storm Water Discharge Associated with

Construction Activity, under ARM 17.30.1102(28).

Comments: Access will be over existing state highway, FAS 327an existing well access road. About 17' of new access road will be built to access this location from the existing well access road. Oil based invert drilling fluids will be recycled. Oil based drill cuttings will be buried in an approved offsite lined pit. Freshwater cuttings will be buried in an on site earthen pit. Completion pit fluids will be hauled to a permitted Class II saltwater disposal. No concerns.

### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Residences, about 3/4 of a mile to the north, 7/8 of a mile to the south and 7/8 of a mile to the southeast from this location. The town of Nohly, Montana is 7/8 of a mile to the south from this location. Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site is about 2.5 miles to the southeast from this location.

Possibility of H2S: Slight.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Triple drilling rig 30 to 35 days drilling time.

Mitigation:

Proper BOP equipment

Topographic sound barriers

H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan

Special equipment/procedures requirements

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Adequate surface casing cemented to surface with working BOP stack should mitigate any problems. Noise should not be a problems, sufficient distance from residence to rig should mitigate this.

### Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): None identified in the area.

Proximity to recreation sites: None identified in the area.

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: None

Conflict with game range/refuge management: None

Threatened or endangered Species: Listed threatened or endangered species are Pallid Sturgeon, Piping Plover, Interior Lease Tern and Whooping Crane. Species listed as a candidate species is the Sprague's Pipit.

Mitigation:

Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)

- Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)
- Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Private cultivated surface lands. NH tracker website indicates 4 species of concern, Great Blue Heron, Piping Plover, Whooping Crane and Least Tern. No indicated impact, the surface location is on a cultivated land. No concerns.

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**Historical/Cultural/Paleontological**

(possible concerns)

Proximity to known sites: Private cultivated surface lands.

Mitigation

- avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)
- other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Private cultivated surface lands at this location. No concerns.

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**Social/Economic**

(possible concerns)

- Substantial effect on tax base
- Create demand for new governmental services
- Population increase or relocation

Comments: Well is a wildcat well and may not be productive. Even if productive should not create any substantial effect on the tax base. No concerns.

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**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

19,039' MD/10,218' TVD single lateral horizontal Bakken formation well.

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

No long term impacts expected, only some short term impacts will occur.

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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): /s/Steven Sasaki  
 (title:) Chief Field Inspector  
 Date: April 2, 2011

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Other Persons Contacted:  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and Agency)

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center  
website.

(subject discussed)

Water wells in Roosevelt County

April 2, 2011

(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website

(Name and Agency)

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES MONTANA  
COUNTIES, Roosevelt County, Montana

(subject discussed)

April 2, 2011

(date)

Montana Natural Heritage Program, Montana FWP

(Name and Agency)

Species of Concern, mammals and birds T26N R59E

(subject discussed)

April 2, 2011

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_

Others present during inspection: \_\_\_\_\_