

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

Operator: Sonkar, Inc.
Well Name/Number: I. H. Baker #2A
Location: SW SW SE Section 4 T35N R2W
County: Toole MT; Field (or Wildcat) Kevin-Sunburst

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

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

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, a small single derrick drilling rig to drill to 1700' TD Madison Formation.

Possible H2S gas production: Yes, slight.

In/near Class I air quality area: No, Class I air quality area.

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 1700' TD.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

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

High water table: No high water table.

Surface drainage leads to live water: None, closest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral drainage about 1/8 of a mile to the northwest from this location.

Water well contamination: No, no water wells within 1 mile from this location.

Surface/production casing will be set and cemented from 1660' to surface, well below the depth of this water well.

Porous/permeable soils: Tight silty bentonitic soils.

Class I stream drainage: No Class I stream drainages.

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: 1660' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones, if any. Also, air/air mist and/or fresh water mud systems to be used. No concerns.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: No, stream crossings anticipated.

High erosion potential: No, small cut, up to 0.6' and small fill, up to 1.3', 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: Slight, surface use is CRP.
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: DEQ General Permit for Storm Water Discharge Associated with

Construction Activity, under ARM 17.30.1102(28).

Comments: Access will be over existing county roads and existing two track well trails. A short new access will be built into this location from the two track well trail. Cuttings will be buried in and unlined earthen pit. Drilling fluids if used will be allowed to dry in the pit. Pits will be backfilled after drying. No special concerns.

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: No residences within 1 mile from this location.

Possibility of H2S: Yes, low ppm.

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: Adequate surface casing and operational BOP should mitigate any problems. No concerns

Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

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

Proximity to recreation sites: No identified.

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: No

Conflict with game range/refuge management: No

Threatened or endangered Species: Only species identified as threatened or endangered is the Black-footed Ferret. Proposed species is the Mountain Plover. Candidate species is the Sprague's Pipit. NH tracker website lists 5 species of concern. They are the Ferruginous Hawk, Chestnut Collar Longspur, McCown's Longspur, Brewer's Sparrow and the Sharptail Grouse. (Sharptailed Grouse west of the Rocky Mountains are species of concern/Sharptailed Grouse east of the Rocky Mountains are not a species of concern).

Mitigation:

- Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)

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

Comments: Private surface CRP lands. Also, this is a replacement oilwell for the I.H. Baker #2 well 25' to the southwest of this well. The #2A well will be drilled on the same location as the #2 well. 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 CRP 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. Well is in the Kevin-Sunburst Oil & Gas Field and existing oil and gas field since the 1920's.

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a development well, a 1700' Madison Formation test.

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur, but can be mitigated.

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 8, 2011

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Toole County water wells.

(subject discussed)

April 8, 2011

(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website

(Name and Agency)

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES

MONTANA COUNTIES, Toole County

(subject discussed)

April 8, 2011

(date)

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)

(Name and Agency)

Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T32N R5W

(subject discussed)

April 8, 2011

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____