

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation Environmental Assessment

Operator: TAQA North USA, Inc.
Well Name/Number: Krowen 14-4H
Location: NW NW Section 14 T37N R57E
County: Sheridan, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Wildcat (Flat Lake)

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 20-30 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): Heavy duty double derrick drilling rig to drill a Bakken formation single lateral horizontal well, 11,844' MD/7745' TVD.

Possible H₂S gas production: Slight possibility of H₂S.

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

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: Existing field infrastructure to handle gas. No concerns.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: Intermediate string hole will be drilled with synthetic based drilling fluids (oil based invert mud system) and openhole horizontal production hole will be drilled with fresh water polymer drilling fluids. Surface casing hole will be drilled with a freshwater, and freshwater mud system.

High water table: Possible high water table anticipated.

Surface drainage leads to live water: Yes, live water nearby in prairie pothole to the east of location.

Water well contamination: None, closest water wells in the area are about 3/8 of a mile to the east and 3/4 of a mile to the west from this location. Depth of these industrial wells are from 115' to 187'. Surface hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater drilling muds. The surface casing setting depth. of 1250' should be below all freshwater zones.

Porous/permeable soils: No, sandy clay 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: Freshwater drilling fluids will be land applied with surface owner approval.

Comments: 1250' surface casing well below freshwater zones in adjacent water wells. Also, covering Fox Hills aquifer

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: None anticipated.

High erosion potential: Small cut, up to 7.7' and small fill, up to 6.0', required.
Loss of soil productivity: None, location to be restored after drilling well, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed.
Unusually large wellsite: No, large well site 400'X400'
Damage to improvements: Slight, surface use is a cultivated 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 _____

Comments: Access will use existing county road, Ueland Road and existing unnamed section line road. A short road will be constructed into this location, about 50' Surface hole (freshwater) cuttings will be mixed buried on site. Oil based invert mud cuttings will be trucked to an approved waste disposal facility. Oil based drilling fluids will be recycled to the next location or returned to the mud company's recycling facility. Freshwater surface fluids and horizontal freshwater polymer fluids and cuttings will be land applied. No concerns.

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Residences are, about 1/2 of a mile to the east northeast, 3/4 of a mile to the west and 1.125 miles to the southwest from this location. Cemetery, about 1.125 mile to the south from this location.

Possibility of H2S: Yes, slight.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Heavy double drilling rig 20 to 30 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.

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: Only species identified as threatened or endangered are the Whooping Crane and Piping Plover. Species of concern is the Sprague's Pipit. NH tracker website lists 14 species of concern. All species listed are birds. As follows: Bairds Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit, Ferruginous Hawk, Chestnut Collared Longspur, Piping Plover, Sedge Wen, Yellow Rail, Bobolink, Long Bill Curlew and McCowen's Longspur. The surface location is in a cultivated field.

Mitigation:

- Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)
- Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)

Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite
 Other: _____
Comments: Private cultivated 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: Private cultivated 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. Wildcat well within an existing oil field, Flat Lake Field.

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Wildcat Bakken formation single lateral horizontal well, 11,844'MD/7745'TVD, within an existing oil field, Flat Lake Field.

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): /s/Steven Sasaki
(title:) Chief Field Inspector
Date: April 21, 2011
Other Persons Contacted:
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center website.

(Name and Agency)

Sheridan County water wells _____

(subject discussed)

April 21, 2011

(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website

(Name and Agency)

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES MONTANA

COUNTIES, Sheridan County

(subject discussed)

April 21, 2011 _____

(date)

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)

(Name and Agency)

Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T37N R57E

(subject discussed)

April 21, 2011 _____

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____