

# Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation Environmental Assessment

Operator: XTO Energy, Inc.  
Well Name/Number: Grinland 34-25  
Location: SW SE 25 T28N R57E  
County: Roosevelt, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Wildcat

## Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 30-40 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): Triple derrick rig 19,864' MD/10,040' TVD Bakken Formation horizontal well test.

Possible H2S gas production: Slight H2S gas production.

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: Associated gas to be flared or if a pipeline is run to a gathering facility then it can be hooked up.

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## Water Quality

(possible concerns)

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

High water table: Possible high water table.

Surface drainage leads to live water: No, closest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral drainage to a low wet area, about 1/4 of a mile to the west from this location.

Water well contamination: None, closest water wells in the area are about 1/4" of a mile to the southwest, about 1/2 of a mile to the southeast, about 5/8 of a mile to the northwest and southwest, about 5/8 of a mile to the west northwest and about 1 mile to the northwest from this location. Depth of these wells range from 2' to 250'. Significantly shallower than the surface casing setting depth of 1600'.

Porous/permeable soils: Yes, sandy silty soils.

Class I stream drainage: No, Class I stream drainages nearby.

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: 1600' surface casing well below freshwater zones in adjacent water wells. Also, covering Fox Hills aquifer. Adequate surface casing and BOP equipment to prevent problems in and around freshwater drainage.

## Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Steam crossings: None anticipated.

High erosion potential: No, location will require a small cut of up to 4.9' and small fill, up to 6.3', required.

Loss of soil productivity: None, location to be restored after drilling well, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of wellsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite: No, very large well site 550'X350'.

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 Requires DEQ General Permit for Storm Water Discharge Associated with Construction Activity, under ARM 17.30.1102(28)

Comments: Will use existing highway #2 and county road, Star Coulee Road. About 1632' of new access road will be built into this location from Star Coulee Road. Freshwater cuttings will be buried on wellsite. Oil base invert drill cuttings will be buried in a lined pit on wellsite. Oil based drilling fluids will be recycled. Completion fluids will be removed and hauled to commercial Class II Disposal. The lined pit will be buried with the liner intact with subsoil if well is productive. If well is not productive subsoil will be spread and topsoil will be spread on top of the subsoil. No concerns.

### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Residences about 1/2 of a mile to the southeast, about 5/8 of a mile to the northwest, about 1.25 miles to the west northwest and 1.25 miles to the northeast from this location. Town of Culbertson is about 10.25 miles to the west and the town of Bainville is about 3.25 miles to the east from this location.

Possibility of H2S: Slight

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Triple drilling rig 30 to 40 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. Sufficient distance between location and buildings noise should not be a problem.

### 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: Species identified as threatened or endangered are the Pallid Sturgeon, Interior Lease Tern, Whooping Crane and Piping Plover. Candidate species is the Sprague's Pipit. MTFWP Natural Heritage Tracker website lists one(1) species of concern, the Whooping Crane.

Mitigation:

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

Comments: Private surface cultivated land. There maybe species of concern that maybe impacted by this wellsite. We ask the operator to consult with the surface owner as to what he would like done, if a species of concern is discovered at this location. The Board of Oil & Gas has no jurisdiction over 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: Surface location is private cultivated land. There maybe possible historical/cultural/paleontological sites that maybe impacted by this wellsite. We ask the operator to consult with the surface owner as to his desires to preserve these sites or not, if they are found during construction of the wellsite. The Board of Oil & Gas has no jurisdiction over private surface lands.

### Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

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

Comments: Wildcat Bakken Formation horizontal well. No concerns.

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### Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Drill a 19,864' MD/10,040' TVD Bakken Formation single lateral horizontal well test. No concerns.

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### Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

Short term impacts expected, no long term impacts anticipated.

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: September 23, 2011

Other Persons Contacted:

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

(Name and Agency)

Roosevelt County water wells

(subject discussed)

September 23, 2011

(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website

(Name and Agency)

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

(subject discussed)

September 23, 2011

(date)

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)

(Name and Agency)

Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T28N R57E

(subject discussed)

September 23, 2011

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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