

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

**Operator:** FX Drilling Company, Inc.  
**Well Name/Number:** Big Sky Operating No.15-13  
**Location:** SW SE Section 13 T34N R2W  
**County:** Toole MT; **Field (or Wildcat)** Wildcat

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time : No, 10 to 14 days drilling time.  
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, 2600' TVD, Potlatch Formation.  
Possible H2S gas production: Yes, possible H2S, low ppms.  
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 75-2-211.

Mitigation:

- Air quality permit (AQB review)
- Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas
- Special equipment/procedures requirements
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Using small rig single derrick drilling rig to drill to 2600' TD.

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: No, freshwater and freshwater mud system.  
High water table : No high water table anticipated.  
Surface drainage leads to live water Closest surface drainage is an unnamed ephemeral drainage that terminates in an alkali flat, about 3 miles to the southwest from this well location. Closest surface water is a stock pond, about 3/8 of a mile to the north from this location. Surface casing will be set to 300' and cemented to surface. Production casing if set will be cemented to surface, if run.  
Water well contamination : None, no water wells within 1 mile of this location.  
Porous/permeable soils: No, silty bentonitic soils.  
Class I stream drainage: No Class I stream drainages in the area of review.

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: 300' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones. Freshwater and fresh water mud systems to be used. 7" production casing will be cemented to surface, if productive.

**Soils/Vegetation/Land Use**

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: No, stream crossings anticipated.

High erosion potential: No, small cut, up to 3.8' and a small fill, up to 3.9', 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, 320'X350' location size required.  
Damage to improvements : Slight, surface is cultivated land.  
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 gravel road, Oilmont South Road and the Gus Blaze Road. Will construct a short new road into this location, about 300'. Cuttings will be buried in the earthen reserve pit. Fluids will be allowed to evaporate. Pit will be backfilled when dry. No special concerns

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### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Residences are about 1/4 of a mile to the west southwest and 2.25 miles to the west from this location..

Possibility of H2S: Yes, slight.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Small drilling rig/short 10 to 14 days drilling time.

Mitigation:

- Proper BOP equipment
- Topographic sound barriers
- H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan
- Special equipment/procedures requirements
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: No concerns. Distance and topographical features should mitigate any noise issues.

### 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: Listed threatened or endangered species in Toole County is the Black Footed Ferret. Candidate species is the Sprague's Pipit. NH Tracker website lists two (2) species of concern for this Township and Range. They are the Ferruginous Hawk and the Chestnut Collared Longspur.

Mitigation:

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

Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: No concerns, surface use is cultivated private land.

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**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, surface use is cultivated private land.

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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 being drilled in an existing oil field, Kevin Sunburst Oil Field. No concerns

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**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

Well is a 2600' Devonian Potlatch Formation test.

**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.

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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): Steven Sasaki  
(title:) Chief Field Inspector  
Date: May 11, 2011

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website  
(Name and Agency)  
Toole County water wells  
(subject discussed)  
October 3, 2011  
(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website  
(Name and Agency)  
ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES  
MONTANA COUNTIES, Toole County  
(subject discussed)  
October 3, 2011  
(date)

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)  
(Name and Agency)  
Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T34N R2W  
(subject discussed)  
October 3, 2011  
(date)

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