

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

**Operator:** Sonkar, Inc.  
**Well Name/Number:** I. H. Baker #1-9A  
**Location:** SW NE SW Section 3 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 1720' TD Madison Formation.

Possible H2S gas production: Yes, slight from Madison Formation.

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 1720' TD.

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

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

High water table: No high water table anticipated in the area of review.

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 1685' to surface,

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: 1685' 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 5.9' and small fill, up to 2.8', 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 grassland.

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 I-15 frontage road and existing two track well trail. No new access will be built into this location.. 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, from Madison Formation.

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 (3,000psig annular BOP, Rule 36.22.1014) 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. Candidate species is the Sprague's Pipit. NH tracker website lists 5 species of concern. They are the Hoary Bat, Ferruginous Hawk, Chestnut Collar Longspur, McCown's Longspur and Brewer's Sparrow.

Mitigation:

Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)

Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)

Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite

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

Comments: Private surface grass lands. Also, this is a replacement oilwell for the I.H.Baker #1-9 well about 45' to the southeast of this well. The #1-9A well will be drilled on the same location as the #9 well. 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. 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 grass lands. 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. 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 replacement well for the I.H. Baker #1-9, a 1720' 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: October 12, 2012

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website  
(Name and Agency)  
Toole County water wells.  
(subject discussed)  
October 12, 2012  
(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website  
(Name and Agency)  
ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES  
MONTANA COUNTIES, Toole County  
(subject discussed)  
October 12, 2012  
(date)

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)  
(Name and Agency)  
Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T35N R2W  
(subject discussed)  
October 12, 2012  
(date)

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