

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Montana Land and Exploration
Well Name/Number: ML&E Bowes 4-3
Location: NW NW 03 T32N R21E
County: Blaine, MT; Field (or Wildcat) W/C

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time no, about 3 days
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no
Possible H2S gas production no
In/near Class I air quality area no
Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive) no

Mitigation:

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

Comments: No special concerns

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud no
High water table no
Surface drainage leads to live water no-flat bottomlands near Milk River
Water well contamination no
Porous/permeable soils no
Class I stream drainage no

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: Fresh water -surface casing OK.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings no
High erosion potential no
Loss of soil productivity no
Unusually large wellsite no
Damage to improvements no
Conflict with existing land use/values no

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: Well site requires minimal cut/fill

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences -1/4 mile
Possibility of H2S no
Size of rig/length of drilling time

Mitigation:

- Proper BOP equipment
- Topographic sound barriers
- H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan

Special equipment/procedures requirements
 Other: _____
Comments: no special concerns

Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)
Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified) none
Proximity to recreation sites none in area
Creation of new access to wildlife habitat no
Conflict with game range/refuge management no
Threatened or endangered Species no
Mitigation:
 Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)
 Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)
 Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite
 Other: _____
Comments: none identified

Historical/Cultural/Paleontological

(possible concerns)
Proximity to known sites none in area
Mitigation
 avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)
 other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)
 Other: _____
Comments: private land

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)
 Substantial effect on tax base
 Create demand for new governmental services
 Population increase or relocation
Comments: no concerns

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 1179 Eagle gas test. Exception: Docket 425-2003

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

Impacts are minor and short term.

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) 
(title:) Administrator
Date: December 9, 2003

Other Persons Contacted:

(Name and Agency)

(subject discussed)

(date)

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