

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

**Operator:** Montana Land and Exploration, Inc.  
**Well Name/Number:** ML&E Bowes No. 10-3  
**Location:** NWE SE Section 3 T32N R21E  
**County:** Blaine, MT; **Field (or Wildcat)** Wildcat

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)  
Long drilling time no, 3 to 4 days drilling time  
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no, 1248' TD  
Possible H2S gas production no  
n/near Class I air quality area no  
Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive) n/a

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 1248' TD

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)  
Salt/oil based mud no, freshwater and freshwater mud system.  
High water table no  
Surface drainage leads to live water no, flat bottomlands near Milk River.  
Water well contamination no  
Porous/permeable soils no, bentonite soils  
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: 225' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones. Also, fresh water mud systems to be used. Well is about ¼ mile from the actual Milk River.

**Soils/Vegetation/Land Use**

(possible concerns)  
Stream crossings no, crossing intermittent dry drainages. Access over county roads and existing trails.  
High erosion potential no, ground relatively flat, no significant cut or fill required.  
Loss of soil productivity no, location will be restored after drilling  
Unusually large wellsite no, 250'X250' location size required.

Damage to improvements no, appears to be grassland 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: no special concerns

---

### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences None within 1/2 mile of this location

Possibility of H2S none

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: no concerns. Distance is sufficient to not be a problem with noise.

### Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified) n/a None identified.

Proximity to recreation sites no

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: 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: \_\_\_\_\_ on 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**

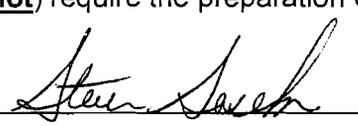
Well is a less than 1500' Eagle Formation test northeast of Bear Paw Mountains

**Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects**

Well is in the Milk River bottom, but sufficiently distanced from the river. Well is about 1/4 mile from the current milk river channel on grassland and should not have any impact.

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: April 28, 2004



Other Persons Contacted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and Agency)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(subject discussed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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