

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Montana Land and Exploration
Well Name/Number: ML&E SE Cherry Patch 6-23
Location: SE NW 23 T33N R22E
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
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 -on grassland about 5 miles north of highway 2.

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 1870' Eagle gas test.

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): [Signature]
(title:) Administrator
Date: June 6, 2004

Other Persons Contacted:

(Name and Agency)

(subject discussed)

(date)

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