Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Montana Land and Exploration
Well Name/Number: ML&E SE Cherry Patch 8-26
Location: SE NE 26 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
xx 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)
Steam 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)
xx Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive
__ Special construction methods to enhance reclamation
__ Other _____
Comments: Well site requires minimal cut/fill on prairie grassland

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)
Proximity to public facilities/residences > none
Possibility of H2S no
Size of rig/length of drilling time
Mitigation:
xx 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 an 1805' Eagle 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) _____
(title:) Administrator
Date: 6/30/2004

Other Persons Contacted:

_____
_____
(Name and Agency)

_____
(subject discussed)

_____
(date)

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