

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation  
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Montana Land and Exploration  
Well Name/Number: ML&E SE Cherry Patch 6-24  
Location: SE NW 24 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 cultivated field

**Health Hazards/Noise**

(possible concerns)  
Proximity to public facilities/residences > none  
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 an 1855' 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: \_\_\_\_\_