

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation  
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Montana Land and Exploration  
Well Name/Number: ML&E SE Cherry Patch 4-7  
Location: NW NW 7 T32N R23E  
County: Blaine, MT; Field (or Wildcat) W/C

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time no, about 1 day  
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 up to 8" cut/ in irrigated pasture

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

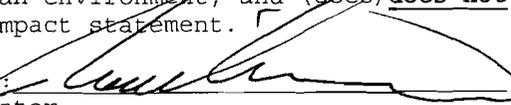
**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

Well is a 1500' 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: July 14, 2004

Other Persons Contacted:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Name and Agency)

\_\_\_\_\_

(subject discussed)

\_\_\_\_\_

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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