

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Montana Land and Exploration
Well Name/Number: ML&E SE Cherry Patch 3-36
Location: NE NW 36 T33N R22E
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 minor cut/ in grassland

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: _____