

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Sands Oil Company
Well Name/Number: Findlater 1-13
Location: SE SE Section 13 T7 R59E
County: Fallon, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Cedar Creek

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time no, 3 to 4 days drilling time.
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no, 1975' TD
Possible H2S gas production no
n/near Class I air quality area no
Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive) n/a

Mitigation:

- Air quality permit (AQB review)
- Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas
- Special equipment/procedures requirements
- Other: _____

Comments: no special concerns -- using small rig to drill to 1975'

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud no, freshwater and freshwater mud system.
High water table no
Surface drainage leads to live water yes, Lake Baker 1/4 mile to the northwest of this location.
Water well contamination none, nearest well is 3/4 mile and 1 mile to the northwest and is 150' and 450' deep. Surface casing will be drilled with freshwater and casing cemented from 200' to surface. Main hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud system. If well is productive, longstring will be cemented back to surface..
Porous/permeable soils no, bentonite soils
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: 200' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones. Production casing will be cemented to surface, should mitigate any problems with this deep water well. Also, fresh water mud systems to be used.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings no

High erosion potential no, small cut up to 3.4' and small fill, up to 0.8', required.
Loss of soil productivity no, location will be restored after drilling, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be restored.
Unusually large wellsite no, 120'X190' location size required.
Damage to improvements none
Conflict with existing land use/values Slight

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: Using existing road and will build this location around the existing access road. Cuttings will be buried in the reserve pit. Reserve pit fluids will be allowed to dry in the reserve pit. No special concerns

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences . The town of Baker is 1/2 mile to the west and north of this location. Municipal airport about 1/2 mile to the southwest of this location..

Possibility of H2S none

Size of rig/length of drilling time Small drilling rig/short 3 to 4 days drilling time

Mitigation:

- Proper BOP equipment
- Topographic sound barriers
- H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan
- Special equipment/procedures requirements
- Other: _____

Comments: no concerns

Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified) n/a None identified.

Proximity to recreation sites Upper and Lower Lake Baker within 1/4 mile of this location. Existing gas wells in the area, Cedar Creek Gas Field..

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: no concerns

Historical/Cultural/Paleontological

(possible concerns)
Proximity to known sites None identified
Mitigation
 avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)
 other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)
 Other: _____
Comments: on private land

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)
 Substantial effect on tax base
 Create demand for new governmental services
 Population increase or relocation
Comments: no concerns

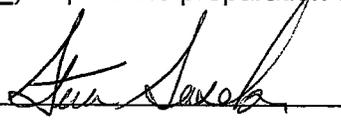
Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 1975' Eagle Formation test in an existing gas field, Cedar Creek Field.

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur. This well is being drilled in an existing gas field.

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): Steven Sasaki 
(title): Chief Field Inspector
Date: February 16, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center

(Name and Agency)
Water wells in Fallon County

(subject discussed)
February 16, 2006
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____