

**Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation  
Environmental Assessment**

**Operator:** Montana Land and Exploration, Inc.  
**Well Name/Number:** ML&E SE Battle 13-11  
**Location:** SW SW Section 11 T34N R20E  
**County:** Blaine, MT; **Field (or Wildcat)** Wildcat

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time no, 2 to 3 days drilling time  
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no, 1885'TD  
Possible H2S gas production no  
In/near Class I air quality area no  
Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive) yes, if productive. DEQ air quality permit required.

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 1885' TD

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud no, freshwater and freshwater mud system.  
High water table no  
Surface drainage leads to live water no, closest ephemeral drainage is an unnamed tributary to Fifteen Mile Creek lies ¼ mile to the south of this location.  
Water well contamination none, no water wells in the surrounding area.  
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: 190' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones and if productive 4 ½" casing to be cemented back to surface. Also, fresh water mud systems to be used.

**Soils/Vegetation/Land Use**

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings none.  
High erosion potential no, small cut, up to 5.6' or small fill, up to 1.1', required.

Loss of soil productivity no, location will be restored after drilling, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite no, 200'X200' location size required.

Damage to improvements no, appears to be grassland.

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: no special concerns. Access over county roads and existing fence line trails most of the way need to build 1 1/8 miles of access road from existing trail to location. Cuttings will be buried in the unlined reserve pit. Drilling fluids will be either spread over the surface with surface owner approval or will be recycled to the next drilling location. Pit will be allowed to dry and then backfilled.

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### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences None within 1 mile of this location

Possibility of H2S none

Size of rig/length of drilling time Small drilling rig/short 2 to 3 days drilling time

Mitigation:

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

Comments: no concerns. Distance is sufficient to not be a problem with noise.

### Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

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

Proximity to recreation sites no

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

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**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

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**Social/Economic**

(possible concerns)

Substantial effect on tax base

Create demand for new governmental services

Population increase or relocation

Comments: no concerns

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**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

Well is a 1885' Eagle Formation test

**Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects**

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur, but can be mitigated in time.

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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: March 15, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Water wells in Blaine County

(subject discussed)

March 15, 2006

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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