

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

**Operator:** Devon Energy Production Company, LP  
**Well Name/Number:** State 16-9  
**Location:** NE SE Section 16 T31N R18E  
**County:** Blaine, MT; **Field (or Wildcat)** Tiger Ridge

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time no, 4 to 5 days drilling time  
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no, 2500' TVD  
Possible H2S gas production no  
In/near Class I air quality area no  
Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive) Yes, DEQ air quality permit required under 75-2-211.

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 2500' TVD

**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 drainage is nest to this location, an unnamed ephemeral tributary drainage to Clear Creek. Small stock pond is in this drainage about ¼ mile to the northwest of this location.  
Water well contamination no, closest water well is over 1/2 mile away.  
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: 150' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones. 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 4.0' and small fill, up to 3.0', 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, 185'X250' location size required.

Damage to improvements slight  
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: Access will be over existing county roads and existing trails. About 3/8 mile of access trail will be built into this location. Cuttings will be disposed of in the unlined earthen pits. Drilling fluids will be trucked to nearby stock pond and disposed of with surface owner approval. Pit will be allowed to dry then backfilled. No special concerns.

### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences Yes, closest residence about 3/4 of a mile to the southwest of this location

Possibility of H2S none

Size of rig/length of drilling time Small drilling rig/short 4 to 5 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 None identified

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: on Montana Trust Lands

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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 Montana State Trust Land. Trust Lands will do surface EA.

**Social/Economic**

(possible concerns)  
 Substantial effect on tax base  
 Create demand for new governmental services  
 Population increase or relocation  
Comments: Development well within an existing gas field, Tiger Ridge gas field. No concerns

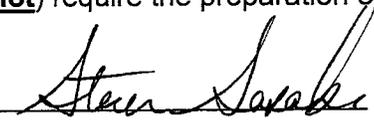
**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

Well is a 2500' TVD Eagle Formation test

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

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur.

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: April 3, 2006

**Other Persons Contacted:**

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website  
(Name and Agency)  
Hill County water wells  
(subject discussed)  
April 3, 2006  
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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