

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

Operator: Devon Energy Production Company, L.P.
Well Name/Number: State-DIR 16-9
Location: NE SE Section 16 T25N R18E
County: Blaine, MT; **Field (or Wildcat) W/C**

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time no, 4 to 5 days
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no, 2500' TD
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 rule 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'

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 an unnamed ephemeral drainage to Black Coulee, about 3/8 of a mile to the southwest of this location.
Water well contamination none, closest water wells is 1 mile to the northwest of this location.
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. If production casing is run, casing will be cemented to surface. Also, fresh water mud systems to be used. Water well is far enough away to not be contaminated.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings none.
High erosion potential no, small cut, up to 7' and small fill, up to 6', required.

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

Unusually large wellsite no, 250'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. About 3/4 of a mile of new access will be created to access 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 None within 1 mile 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 Missouri River Breaks National Monument boundaries about 6.5miles east and 8 miles south of this location.

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: State of Montana Trust Lands Trust Lands will do surface EA.

Historical/Cultural/Paleontological

(possible concerns)

Proximity to known sites None identified

Mitigation

 avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)

 X other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)

 Other: _____

Comments: State of Montana Trust Lands 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: no concerns

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 2500' Eagle Formation test south side of Bear Paw Mountains

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)

Blaine County water wells

(subject discussed)

April 3, 2006

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____