

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Montana Land and Exploration, Inc.
Well Name/Number: ML&E Bowes No. 9-2
Location: NE SE Section 2 T32N R21E
County: Blaine, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Wildcat

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time no, 3 to 4 days drilling time
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no, 1353' TD
Possible H2S gas production no
n/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 1353' 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, flat bottomlands near Milk River. Closest live water is the Harlem canal about 1/16 of a mile to the south and the Milk River about 1/8 of a mile to the south..
Water well contamination no
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. If productive 4 1/2" casing will be cemented to surface to isolate all porosity zones behind the casing.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings no, crossings.
High erosion potential no, small cut, up to 0.7' and small fill, up to 2.7', 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, 250'X250' location size required.

Damage to improvements no, appears to be grassland land.

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 highways and existing county road. About 1 mile of access road will be built into this location. Cuttings will be buried in the unlined reserve pit. Drilling fluids will be land spread with surface owner approval or recycled to the next drilling location. Pit will be backfilled when dry. No special concerns.

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences Residences and buildings 3/8 of a mile to the south and west 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. 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 Milk River

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 1353' Eagle Formation test

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

Well is in the Milk River bottom, but sufficiently distanced from the river. Well is about 1/4 mile from the current milk river channel on grassland and should not have any impact significant long term impacts. 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 7, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Blaine County water wells

(subject discussed)

April 7, 2006

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____