

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

Operator: Devon Energy Production Company, LP
Well Name/Number: Neuwerth 18-15
Location: SW SE Section 18 T31N R15E
County: Hill, 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 1/8 mile to the west of this location, an unnamed ephemeral tributary drainage to Gravel Coulee.
Water well contamination no, closest water well is about 1 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. If productive production casing will be cemented to surface.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings none
High erosion potential no, small cut, up to 9' and small fill, up to 6', 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 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 1/8 of a mile of new access 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 No residences with 1 mile 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: 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

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' 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 11, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Hill County water wells

(subject discussed)

April 11, 2006

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____