

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation  
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Fidelity Exploration and Production Company  
Well Name/Number: State No. 2577  
Location: SW NW Section 36 T8N R59E  
County: Fallon, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Cedar Creek

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time no, 3 to 4 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no, 2000' 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 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 2000'

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud no, freshwater and freshwater mud system.

High water table no

Surface drainage leads to live water Possible, unnamed ephemeral drainage nearby drains to what appears to be a stock pond, about 1 mile to the southeast of this location.

Water well contamination no, closest water well is at least 1/2 mile distant in any direction. Surface casing will be drilled with freshwater. Surface casing will be set to 150' and cemented to surface. Mainhole will be drilled with freshwater mud system. If productive production casing will be run and cemented to surface.

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. Production casing will be cemented to surface.

**Soils/Vegetation/Land Use**

(possible concerns)

Steam crossings no  
High erosion potential no, small cut, up to 7.8' and small fill, up to 0.4', required.  
Loss of soil productivity no, location will be restored after drilling, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of wellsite will be reclaimed.  
Unusually large wellsite no, 120'X190' 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 1/2 mile of new access will be built into this location. Cuttings and mud solids will be disposed of in the unlined drilling pits. Drilling fluids will be disposed of in a nearby private stock pond with surface owner approval. Pits will then be allowed to dry and then will be backfilled. No special concerns

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### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences No residence within 1 mile of this location. Bonnievale Cemetery about 2.25 miles to the southeast. The town of Baker, Montana 2.75 mile to the southeast.

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

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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: Montana Trust Lands surface. 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 A development gas well in an existing gas field, Cedar Creek Gas Field.

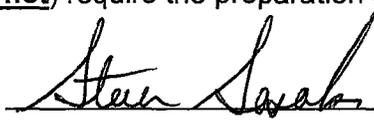
### Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 2000' Eagle Formation test in an existing gas field, Cedar Creek gas field.

### Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

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

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 18, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center

(Name and Agency)

Water wells in Fallon County

(subject discussed)

April 18, 2006

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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