

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment

Operator: J. Burns Brown Operating Company
Well Name/Number: Elias 1-34-18B
Location: 1st NE NE Section 1 T34N R18E
County: Blaine, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Wildcat

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time no, 12-14 days drilling time
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no, 4200' TVD
Possible H2S gas production yes
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 4200' 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 yes, nearest ephemeral drainage is Hanson Coulee about 1/4 mile to the south of this location. Some stock ponds in the bottom of this drainage straight to the south.
Water well contamination none, nearest water well is over 1 mile to the southeast of this location.
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 Small cut, up to 2' and smaller fill, up to 1', 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.

Conflict with existing land use/values no

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: Will use existing county roads and existing trails except 1 mile of new access will have to be built from the existing trail into this location. Cuttings will be buried in the earthen pits. Drilling fluids will be trucked to a nearby private stock pond with surface owner approval. Pit will be backfilled when dry. No special concerns

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences No residences within 1 mile of location.

Possibility of H2S none

Size of rig/length of drilling time Small drilling rig/short 12 to 14 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 not

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: _____

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 4200' TVD, Sawtooth 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: May 10, 2006

Other Persons Contacted:

(Name and Agency)
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center website,
Blaine County water wells.
(subject discussed)
May 10, 2006
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:
Inspection date: _____
Inspector: _____
Others present during inspection: _____