

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment

Operator: J. Burns Brown Operating Company
Well Name/Number: Verploegen 2-34-15
Location: Lot 4 NW NW Section 2 T34N R15E
County: Hill, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Wildcat

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time no, 3-4 days drilling time
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig) no, 2400' 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 2400' 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 unnamed ephemeral tributary drainage to Staton Coulee about 5/8 mile to the north of this location. Some stock ponds in the bottom of this drainage about 2 miles to the southeast.
Water well contamination none, nearest water well is about 3/4 of a mile to the northwest 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 small 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 200' 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 Buildings about 1.5 miles to the southeast 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 Lake Thibadeau National Wildlife Refuge about 6 miles to the east of this location..

Proximity to recreation sites none

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: Private surface location.

Social/Economic

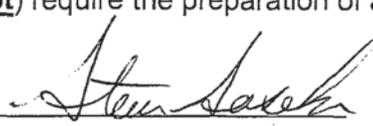
(possible concerns)
 Substantial effect on tax base
 Create demand for new governmental services
 Population increase or relocation
Comments: no concerns

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 2400' TVD, Niobrara 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: _____