

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

**Operator:** Fidelity Exploration and Production Company  
**Well Name/Number:** Fee-BR 2645  
**Location:** SE SESection 25 T9N R58E  
**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  
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 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 no, closest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral tributary drainage which drains into Pennel Creek about 2.5 miles to the southwest. Due south in this ephemeral drainage is what appears to be a pond about 1/8 of a mile south of this location.  
Water well contamination None, no water wells within 1 mile of this location.  
Production casing if run will be 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)

Stream crossings no

High erosion potential no, small cut, up to 3.8' and small fill, up to 1.9', 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, 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 along existing county roads and existing field well access roads. A short access into location off existing field road or trail will be built, about 1/2 mile of new access will be created. Drilling fluids will be hauled to a private stock reservoir with surface owner approval or allowed to dry in the earthen pits. Cuttings will be buried in the unlined earthen pits. Pits will be restored after they have dried. No special concerns

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### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences No, residences within 1 mile 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 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: 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

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**Social/Economic**

(possible concerns)

Substantial effect on tax base

Create demand for new governmental services

Population increase or relocation

Comments: no concerns

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**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

Well is a 2000' Eagle Formation test. This well is within an existing oil and gas field, Cedar Creek.

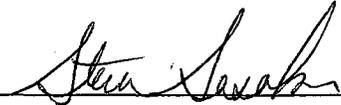
**Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects**

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur.

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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: June 16, 2006

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Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center

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(Name and Agency)

Water wells in Fallon County

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(subject discussed)

June 16, 2006 \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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