

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

**Operator:** Fidelity Exploration and Production Company  
**Well Name/Number:** State No. BR 22-16  
**Location:** SE NW Section 16 T10N 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, Cabin Creek drainage to the northeast of the location about 1/4 of a mile.  
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)

Steam crossings no  
High erosion potential no, small cut, up to 2.4' and small fill, up to 0.1', 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, 120'X190' location size required.

Damage to improvements no

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 off existing county roads and existing well trails. A short 1/8 mile of new access road will have to be constructed into the location. Drilling fluids will be hauled to a private stock reservoir with surface owner approval or allowed to dry in the earthen pits. Cuttings. No special concerns

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### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences Buildings to the southeast about 3/4 of a mile and southwest of this location 1 mile, may be associated with production facilities and not residences.

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 Development well in the Cedar Creek gas  
field.

**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

Well is a 2000' Eagle Formation test.

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

No long term effects will occur. 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: June 16, 2006

**Other Persons Contacted:**

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center

(Name and Agency)  
Water wells in Fallon County

(subject discussed)  
June 16, 2006  
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:  
Inspection date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_

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