

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

Operator: Enerplus Resources (USA) Corporation
Well Name/Number: Snydley-Kids No.13-15-HLID3
Location: SW SE Section 13 T24 R54E
County: Richland, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Wildcat

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 30-40 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): Triple derrick rig 900 HP, Bakken horizontal TVD 9,887' MD 19,426'.

Possible H2S gas production: Slight

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: Existing pipeline for gas in the area.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: Yes to long string salt based and oil based drilling fluids. Surface casing hole to be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud.

High water table: No

Surface drainage leads to live water: Yes, nearest drainage is Middle Charlie Creek, about 1/16 of a mile to the east northeast of this location. Within this creek bottom are stock ponds.

Water well contamination No, all water wells close by are shallower than 1729'. Closest water well is over 1 mile away in any direction. Surface hole will be drilled with freshwater. Steel surface casing will be set and cemented to surface from 1729'.

Porous/permeable soils: No, sandy bentonitic soils

Class I stream drainage: No, Class I stream drainages.

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: 1729+/- surface casing well below freshwater zones in adjacent water wells. Also, covering Fox Hills aquifer. Adequate surface casing and BOP equipment to prevent problems.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: None

High erosion potential: Yes, location has a large cut of 34.0' and small fill of 8.7', required.

Loss of soil productivity: None, location to be restored after drilling well, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite: No, large well site 450'X310'

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface use cultivated field.

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 road, #133. A short access road from the existing county road will be built into this location, about 301' of new road will be built. Oil based muds will be recycled or hauled to a commercial disposal, cuttings will be disposed of in a lined pit. Completion fluids will be disposed of in a commercial Class II well. Pit will be solidified with subsoil in the lined pit and clean cover and top soil put over the solidified pit contents.

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Closest residences are about 1 mile to the southeast, 1.25 miles to the northwest and 1.5 miles to the northeast of this location.

Possibility of H2S: Slight

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Triple drilling rig 30 to 40 days drilling time.

Mitigation:

- Proper BOP equipment
- Topographic sound barriers
- H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan
- Special equipment/procedures requirements
- Other: _____

Comments: 1729'+ is adequate surface casing cemented to surface with working BOP stack should mitigate any problems. Distance sufficient to mitigate noise.

Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): None identified.

Proximity to recreation sites: None identified

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: No

Conflict with game range/refuge management: No

Threatened or endangered Species: None identified.

Mitigation:

- Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)
- Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)
- Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite
- Other: _____

Comments: No concerns. Private surface.

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: No concerns. Private surface.

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

Substantial effect on tax base

Create demand for new governmental services

Population increase or relocation

Comments: No concerns. Third well in this 1280 acre spacing unit.

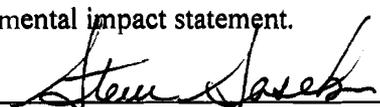
Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

TVD 9,887'/MD 19,426' Bakken Formation horizontal well

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts 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: October 16, 2007

Other Persons Contacted:
Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center website

(Name and Agency)
Richland County water wells

(subject discussed)
October 16, 2007

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____