

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

**Operator:** MRC LLC  
**Well Name/Number:** Berthelote 15-8  
**Location:** SW SE Section 8 T36N R2E  
**County:** Toole MT; Field (or Wildcat) Wildcat

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 4 to 5 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, 2316' 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 2316' TD.

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: No, freshwater, freshwater mud system.

High water table: No

Surface drainage leads to live water: No, closest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral tributary drainage to Miners Coulee, about 1/8 of a mile to the southwest of this well location.

Water well contamination: None, no water wells within 1 mile of this location. Closest water well is 1.75 miles to the northwest of this wellsite.

Porous/permeable soils: No, sandy bentonitic 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: 300' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones. Freshwater mud systems to be used.

**Soils/Vegetation/Land Use**

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: None, only ephemeral drainage crossings.

High erosion potential: No, small cut, up to 3.8' and small fill, up to 4.7', 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, 150'X150' approximate location size required.

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface is grassland.

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 roads, Coal Mine Coulee road and well access road. A short access will be built off the existing well access road into location, about ¼ of a mile of new access. Cuttings will be buried in the unlined reserve and drilling pits. Drilling mud will be allowed to dry in the pits, before being backfilled. No special concerns.

### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: None nearby, closest ranch are 1.25 miles to the east, the McDermott Ranch about 2.25 miles to the northwest and the Berthelote Ranch, about 1.75 miles to the south of this location.

Possibility of H2S: None

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Small drilling rig/short 4 to 5 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): None identified.

Proximity to recreation sites: None identified.

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: None identified.

Conflict with game range/refuge management: None

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: Private surface lands. 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: Private surface lands. No concerns.

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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 2316' Rierdon Formation test

**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: November 13, 2007

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Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Toole County water wells

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(subject discussed)

November 13, 2007

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(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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