

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

Operator: Devon Energy Production Company, LP
Well Name/Number: Olson 23-3
Location: NE NW Section 23 T31N R17E
County: Blaine, MT; **Field (or Wildcat)** Tiger Ridge

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 3 to 4 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, 2500'TD, small single derrick drilling rig.

Possible H2S gas production: None

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 2500'TD.

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 drainages to Little Boxelder Creek, about 1/4 of a mile to the northwest of this location.

Water well contamination: No, closest water well is over 1 mile in any direction.

Porous/permeable soils: No, silty 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: 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: No, small cut, up to 6.0' and small fill, up to 3.0', 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: 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 over existing county road, Clear Creek Road. About ¼ of a mile of access trail will be built into this location off an existing county road. Cuttings will be disposed of in the unlined earthen pits. Drilling fluids will be trucked to nearby stock pond and disposed of with surface owner approval. Pit will be allowed to dry then backfilled. No special concerns.

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

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

Substantial effect on tax base

Create demand for new governmental services

Population increase or relocation

Comments: Development well within an existing gas field, Tiger Ridge gas field.

No concerns

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 2500' TD Eagle 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: April 14, 2008

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC
website

(Name and Agency)

Blaine County water wells

(subject discussed)

April 14, 2008

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____