

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

Operator: Devon Energy Production Company, LP
Well Name/Number: State-DIR 23-15
Location: SW SE Section 23 T27N R19E
County: Blaine, **MT;** **Field (or Wildcat)** Wildcat

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

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

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, small single derrick drilling rig to drill to 2500' TD/2750'TMD.

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 2500'TD/2750'TMD

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, nearest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral drainage to Als Creek, about 1/2 of a mile south of this location.

Water well contamination: No, no water wells within 1 mile of this location. Production string will be cemented back to surface.

Porous/permeable soils: No, sandy silty 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. Production casing will be cemented to surface.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: None

High erosion potential: No, small cut, up to 2.0' and small fill, up to 4.0', 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 over existing county gravel road, Lloyd Road and existing two track ranch road. About 1/4 of a mile of new access road will be built into this location off existing ranch 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: TU Ranch is about 1 mile to the northwest 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: Proper BOP and surface casing should mitigate any problems. No concerns.

Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

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

Proximity to recreation sites: About 5 miles to the southeast of this location is the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

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: State of Montana Trust Lands surface, State Lands will do EA and onsite for this well.

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 State of Montana Trust Lands, State Lands will do EA and onsite for this well.

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

Substantial effect on tax base

Create demand for new governmental services

Population increase or relocation

Comments: An wildcat well test. No concerns.

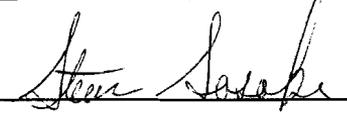
Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 2500' TD/2750'TMD, wildcat Eagle Formation test

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur, but can be mitigated in a short time frame

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 9, 2008

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center website

(Name and Agency)

Blaine County water wells.

(subject discussed)

June 9, 2008

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____