

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

**Operator:** MRC LLC  
**Well Name/Number:** McCutcheon 12-9  
**Location:** NW SW Section 9 T36N R2E  
**County:** Toole MT; Field (or Wildcat) Miner Coulee

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)

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

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, small single derrick drilling rig to drill to 2574' TD.

Possible H2S gas production: Yes, 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: No special concerns – using small rig to drill to 2574' TD.

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

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

High water table: No

Surface drainage leads to live water: None, surface drainages are all ephemeral drainages, draining towards Miners Coulee ephemeral drainage. Closest drainage is 1/8 of a mile northeast of this location.

Water well contamination: None, no water wells within 1 mile of this location.

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: No, crossing only ephemeral drainages.

High erosion potential: No, small cut, up to 5.8' and small fill, up to 2.9', 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' 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, Miners Coulee, Coal Mine Road and existing well access road. A short access will be built off the existing well access 1625' into this well location. 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 is about 1/2 of a mile to the east of this location.

Possibility of H2S: Yes, slight.

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: Proper BOP and adequate surface casing will mitigate any problems. 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: Private surface lands. No concerns.

---

---

---

**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 Miners Coulee Oil Field.

---

---

---

**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

Well is a 2574' Madison Formation test

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

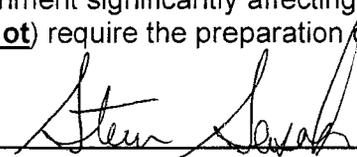
No long term impacts expected , some short term impacts will occur.

---

---

---

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: May 31, 2008

---

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Toole County water wells

(subject discussed)

May 31, 2008

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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

*[Faint, illegible text or stamp]*