

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

Operator: Rosetta Resources Operating LP
Well Name/Number: Fee Simonson 3608-34-01
Location: NE NE Section 34 T36N R8W
County: Glacier, **MT;** **Field (or Wildcat)** W/C

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: 10 to 15 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, super single or small triple derrick drilling rig for a 6,600' TD vertical hole, Souris River Formation test well.

Possible H2S gas production: Yes, H2S gas production possible.

In/near Class I air quality area: Yes, Class I air quality area, Blackfeet Reservation.

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: Super single or triple derrick drilling rig to drill a vertical test hole to 6600' TD, a Souris River Formation test well.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: Use freshwater and freshwater mud system on surface and main hole.

High water table: None anticipated.

Surface drainage leads to live water: No, closest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral tributary drainage to Little Rock Coulee, about 1/2 of a mile to the southwest from this location. Little Rock Coulee eventually drains into Cut Bank Creek is about 12 miles to the southeast of this location.

Water well contamination: No, no water wells within 1 mile in any direction from this location. Surface casing hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater muds to 500' and steel surface casing run and cemented to surface to protect ground water.

Porous/permeable soils: No, sandy clay soils.

Class I stream drainage: Class I stream drainage is Cut Bank Creek, about 12 miles to the southeast from this location.

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: 500' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones. Also, fresh water mud systems to be used on surface hole.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: Crossing only ephemeral drainages.

High erosion potential: No, no cut, up to 0.0' and moderate fill required up to 11.6', 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, large, 350'X300' location size required.

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface use is an 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: Using existing county road, Brown Road. Rosetta will construct about ¾ of a mile of new access road into this location from the county road. Cuttings will be buried in the lined reserve pit. Drilling fluids and completion fluids will be trucked to a Class II disposal well. Pit will be allowed to dry then backfilled when dry. No special concerns

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Closest residences are further than 1mile from this wellsite.

Possibility of H2S: Yes possible H2S.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Super Single or triple derrick drilling rig 10 to 15 days drilling time.

Mitigation:

Proper BOP equipment

Topographic sound barriers

H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan

Special equipment/procedures requirements

Other: _____

Comments: No concerns, proper BOP stack and surface casing should be able to control any problems that occur.

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: Species identified as threatened or endanger in Glacier County are Grizzly Bear, Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf and Bull Trout. Candidate species are Sprague's Pipit and Wolverine. NH tracker site lists no species of concern.

Mitigation:

Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)

Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)

Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite

Other: Remove garbage daily. All empty mud sacks need to be stored in an enclosed trailer.

Comments: Private cultivated surface lands. Drilling of this well should not impact any of species listed above. Bull Trout do not exist in Cut Bank Creek drainage. Grizzly Bears, Gray Wolf and Canada Lynx are not established in this area. Location is on private cultivated fields. 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 cultivated surface lands. No concerns.

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

Substantial effect on tax base

Create demand for new governmental services

Population increase or relocation

Comments: Wildcat well. If production is established then these issues will be addressed based on the size of the discovery. If a dryhole no social/economic impact will occur. No concerns

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a vertical Souis River Formation test to 6,600' TD.

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): \s\Steven Sasaki _____

(title:) Chief Field Inspector _____

Date: February 16, 2011 _____

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Glacier County water wells

(subject discussed)

February 16, 2011

(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website

(Name and Agency)

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES

MONTANA COUNTIES, Glacier County

(subject discussed)

February 16, 2011

(date)

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website

(Name and Agency)

Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3 T36N R8W

(subject discussed)

February 16, 2011

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____