

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

Operator: Continental Resources, Inc.

Well Name/Number: Earl 3-25H

Location: SW SE Section 25 T23N R55E

County: Richland, **MT;** **Field (or Wildcat)** W/C (Bakken Horizontal)

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 30 to 40 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No triple derrick drilling rig to drill to 20,067'MD/10,095'TVD a single lateral horizontal Bakken Formation well.

In/near Class I air quality area: No Class I air quality area in the area of review.

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 triple rig to drill a 20,067'MD/10,095'TVD single lateral horizontal Bakken Formation well test. If there are existing pipeline for associated gas in the area then gas must be tied into system or if no gathering system nearby associated gas can be flared under Board Rule 36.22.1220.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: Yes, oil based invert drilling fluid system on the mainhole and saltwater for the horizontal lateral. Freshwater and freshwater mud system on surface hole (rule 36.22.1001).

High water table: No high water table anticipated at this surface location.

Surface drainage leads to live water: Yes, closest drainages are an unnamed ephemeral tributary drainage to the East Fork Fox Creek, about 1/16 of a mile to the west from this location.

Water well contamination: No, nearest water wells are about 1/32 of a mile to the west, about 1/8 of a mile to the south, about 1/2 of a mile to the northwest, about 5/8 of a mile to the west, about 5/8 of a mile to the southeast, about 3/4 of a mile to the southwest and all other wells are 1 mile and further from this location. Depth of these water wells range from 30' to 300'. Surface hole must be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud (rule 36.22.1001). Surface casing will be set at 1650' and cemented to surface.

Porous/permeable soils: No, silty sandy clay soils.

Class I stream drainage: No Class I stream drainages in the area of review.

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: Cuttings pit will be lined. No reserve pit will be used.

Comments: 1650' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones (rule 36.22.1001). Continental Resources will utilize a closed loop mud system with on site burial of cuttings in a lined pit.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: No stream crossings anticipated.

High erosion potential: Yes possible high erosion potential on cut slope, moderate cut, up to 18.2' and moderate fill, up to 11.8', 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: Yes, a large wellsite, 500'X300', designed for one well location, Earl 3-25H.

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface use 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: Will use existing county road, #330. About 3496' of new and upgraded existing trail access road will be built or upgraded for heavy truck into this location, from the county road #330. Drill cutting will be disposed of in the lined cuttings pit. Oil based invert drilling fluids will be recycled. Reserve pit fluids will be recycled and/or haul to a commercial disposal. Lined cuttings pit will be backfilled when dry. No special concerns.

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Closest residences are about 5/8 of a mile to the west, about 1 mile to the south and about 1 mile to the north northwest from this location.

Possibility of H2S: Slight chance of H2S (Mississippian Formations).

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Triple drilling rig/short 30 to 40 days drilling time.

Mitigation:

- Proper BOP equipment
- Topographic sound barriers
- H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan
- Special equipment/procedures requirements
- Other: _____

Comments: Adequate surface casing and operational BOP should mitigate any problems. (5,000psig annular, pipe and blind rams) equipment (Rule 36.22.1014) to prevent well control 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: Species identified as threatened by the USFWS are Pallid Sturgeon, Interior Lease Tern, Piping Plover and Whooping Crane. Species listed as candidate species are the Greater Sage Grouse and Sprague's Pipit. NH tracker website for this Township and Range lists zero (0) species of concern.

Mitigation:

- Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)
- Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)
- Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite
- Other: _____

Comments: Private surface grassland. There maybe species of concern that maybe impacted by this wellsite. We ask the operator to consult with the surface owner as to what he would like done, if a species of concern is discovered at this location. The Board of Oil & Gas exerts no jurisdiction over private surface lands.

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 private surface grassland. There maybe possible historical/cultural/paleontological sites that maybe impacted by this wellsite. We ask the operator to consult with the surface owner as to his desires to preserve these sites or not, if they are found during construction of the wellsite. The Board of Oil & Gas exerts no jurisdiction over private surface lands.

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

- Substantial effect on tax base
- Create demand for new governmental services
- Population increase or relocation

Comments: Wildcat well. No concerns.

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 20,067'MD/10,095'TVD single lateral horizontal Bakken Formation well test.

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impact 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: August 22, 2012

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Richland County water wells

(subject discussed)

August 22, 2012

(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website

(Name and Agency)

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES

MONTANA COUNTIES, Richland County

(subject discussed)

August 22, 2012

(date)

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)

(Name and Agency)

Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T23N R55E

(subject discussed)

August 22, 2012

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____