

# Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation Environmental Assessment

**Operator:** Oasis Petroleum North America LLC  
**Well Name/Number:** Lester Federal 2759 12-17H  
**Location:** NE NW Section 17 T27N R59E  
**County:** Roosevelt, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Wildcat

## Air Quality

(possible concerns)

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

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): Triple derrick drilling rig to drill a single lateral horizontal Bakken Formation test, 20,335' MD/10,285' TVD.

Possible H2S gas production: Yes, slight H2S possible.

In/near Class I air quality area: No Class I air quality area nearby.

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: Existing pipeline for H2S gas in the area.

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## Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: Yes to oil based invert drilling fluids for intermediate casing hole. Horizontal hole will be drilled with saltwater. Surface casing hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud system.

High water table: No high water table anticipated.

Surface drainage leads to live water: No, closest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral tributary drainage to Little Muddy Creek, about 1/8 of a mile to the west and southwest from this location.

Water well contamination: No, closest water wells are about 1/2 mile to the west northwest and about 1 mile to the west from this location. Depth of these domestic and other water wells are 270 to 160'. This proposed oil well will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud to 1,810' and steel surface casing will be run and cemented to surface to protect groundwater.

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

Class I stream drainage: No, Class I stream drainages.

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: 1,810' surface casing will be drilled with freshwater, steel casing will be run to 1,810' and cemented back to surface, to protect freshwater zones in adjacent water wells. Also, covering Fox Hills aquifer. Adequate surface casing and operational BOP equipment to prevent problems.

## Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Steam crossings: None anticipated.

High erosion potential: Yes, location will require a steep cut of up to 44.0' and a moderate fill of up to 24.2', required.

Loss of soil productivity: No, location to be restored after drilling, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of this drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite: Yes, a very large dual well site 530'X320', same drilling pad as the Catherine 2759 12-17H.

Damage to improvements: Slight surface use appears to be 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 Requires DEQ General Permit for Storm Water Discharge Associated with Construction Activity, under ARM 17.30.1102(28).

Comments: Access will be over existing county road, Bainville-Snowden Road and existing well access road. New access road will be built into this location, about 5929' into this location from the end of the existing well access road. Oil based invert drilling fluids will be recycled. Completion fluids will be hauled to a commercial Class II disposal. Cuttings and solids will be buried/solidified on site in the lined reserve pit. The lined pit will be allowed to dry and the pit backfilled. No concerns.

### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Nearest residence is about 1/2 of a mile to the west and all other residences are 1 mile and further in any direction from this location. The Town of Bainville, MT about 5.25 miles to the northwest from this location.

Possibility of H2S: Yes, slight.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Triple drilling rig 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 cemented to surface with working BOP stack should mitigate any problems.

### 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 endangered are the Pallid Sturgeon, Piping Plover, Interior Lease Tern and Whooping Crane. Candidate species is the Sprague's Pipit. NH tracker website indicates, four (4) species of concern: Great Blue Heron, Piping Plover, Bobolink and Whooping Crane. NH Tracker website list one (1) potential species of concern: Hayden's Shrew.

Mitigation:

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

Comments: Federal minerals will be intersected by the horizontal lateral. BLM will do on site EA. Private surface grasslands. There may be 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 has 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: Federal minerals will be intersected by the horizontal lateral. BLM will do on site EA. Private surface grasslands. There may be 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 has 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

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### Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

An exploratory single lateral horizontal Bakken Formation test, 20,335' MD/10,285' TVD.

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### Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impacts expected, some short term impacts will occur, but can be mitigated.

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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: January 10, 2012

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and Agency)  
Roosevelt County water wells \_\_\_\_\_  
(subject discussed)  
November 13, 2011 \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website  
(Name and Agency)  
ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES MONTANA  
COUNTIES, Roosevelt County, Montana  
(subject discussed)  
November 13, 2011

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website  
(Name and Agency)  
Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, Location T27N R59E  
(subject discussed)  
November 13, 2011 \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

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

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

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