

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Proposed Action: Approve Drilling Permit (Form 22)

Project/Well Name: Porker #5

Operator: D&M Welding LLC

Location: 35N-2W-32 NW SW

County: Teton MT; **Field (or Wildcat):** Kevin/Sunburst

Proposed Project Date: 09/21/2020

I. DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

D&M Welding LLC plans to drill a vertical well with a TD/TVD of 1,550' with the objective formation being the Madison. Surface casing to be set at 250'.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website (Teton County Wells).

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES MONTANA COUNTIES, Teton County

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)

Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T35N R2W

Montana Cadastral Website

Surface Ownership and surface use Section 32 T35N R2W

Montana Department of Natural Resources MEPA Submittal

2. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

No Action Alternative: The proposed well would not be drilled.

Action Alternative: D&M Welding LLC would have permission to drill the well.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. AIR QUALITY

Long drilling time: No
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, small rig.

Possible H₂S gas production: None anticipated.
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. AQB review.

Comments: No special concerns – using small rig to drill to 1,550' TD/TVD. If there are no gas gathering systems nearby, associated gas can be flared under Board Rule 36.22.1220.

4. WATER QUALITY

Salt/oil based mud: No drilling fluid to be utilize, will air drill.
High water table: No.
Surface drainage leads to live water: No. A stock pond exists about 550' to the south. Another stock pond exists about ¼ of a mile to the east. A drainage connects these two stock ponds. The unnamed ephemeral drainage runs to the west under the access road through a culvert.

Water well contamination: No wells within a ½ mile radius.

Porous/permeable soils: Sandy clay.
Class I stream drainage: None.
Groundwater vulnerability area: 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)

Comments: Steel surface casing exists and is cemented to surface to protect ground water. (Rule 36.22.1001).

5. SOILS/VEGETATION/LAND USE

Vegetation: Grass land.
Stream crossings: None.
High erosion potential: No, small cut of 0.2' and small fill of 5.2'.
Loss of soil productivity: If the well is unproductive the location will be reclaimed. If the well is productive the well will operate until no longer capable for being used for which it was drilled, and the well will be plugged and the location will be reclaimed to original productivity.

Unusually large wellsite (Describe dimensions): No, 120' X 120'.

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface use is grass land.

Conflict with existing land use/values: If productive there may be slight conflicts.

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

Access Road: Access is off Two Mile Road, Hwy 215, and existing trail.

Drilling fluids/solids: A small pit will be used to blow the cuttings into. The pit will not be lined, and no drilling fluid will be used. Contents of the pit will be emptied and disposed of properly.

6. HEALTH HAZARDS/NOISE

Proximity to public facilities/residences: An occupied structure is located within ¼ a mile from the proposed location to the northwest. It is owned by the driller. Requesting statement from driller to waive the notice requirement.

Possibility of H2S: None anticipated.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Small rig to be used, short drilling time.

Mitigation:

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

7. WILDLIFE/RECREATION

Sage Grouse: NA

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

Proximity to recreation sites: None.

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: No.

Conflict with game range/refuge management: No.

Threatened or endangered Species: Species that are listed as threatened or endangered in Teton County are: Grizzly Bear, Canada Lynx, Red Knot, and Piping Plover. Potential specie of concern is the Wolverine. Candidate specie is the Whitebark Pine. The Montana Natural Heritage Program lists seven (7) species of concern: The Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Little Brown Myotis, Ferruginous Hawk, Chestnut-collared Longspur, McCown's Longspur, and Brewer's Sparrow.

Mitigation:

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

Comments: Private surface lands. 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. No concerns.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

8. HISTORICAL/CULTURAL/PALEONTOLOGICAL

Proximity to known sites:

Mitigation

- avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)
- other agency review (SHPO, DNRC Trust Lands, federal agencies)

Other:

9. SOCIAL/ECONOMIC

Substantial effect on tax base

- Create demand for new governmental services
- Population increase or relocation

Comments: No concerns.

IV. SUMMARY

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

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: John Gizicki	Date: 09/16/20
	Title: Compliance Specialist	