# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Proposed Action:</strong></th>
<th>Approve Drilling Permit (Form 22)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project/Well Name:</strong></td>
<td>Raffaell 17-2H SWD</td>
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<td><strong>Operator:</strong></td>
<td>Hydra MT, LLC</td>
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**Location:** NW NW Section 17 T25N-R59E  
**County:** Richland MT; **Field (or Wildcat):** Fairview  
**Proposed Project Date:** 9/23/2022

## I. DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Hydra MT LLC plans to drill a well to use as a class II SWD injection well in the Dakota Formation. Surface casing to be set at 1,880’. Proposed TD is 8140’ MD, 5714’ TVD.

## II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

### 1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS, OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED

- Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website (Richland County Wells).
- US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website  
  ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES MONTANA COUNTIES, Richland County
- Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)  
  Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T25N R59E
- Montana Cadastral Website  
  Surface Ownership and surface use Section 17 T25N R59E
- Montana Department of Natural Resources MEPA Submittal

### 2. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- **No Action Alternative:** The proposed well would not be drilled for use as a class II injection well.

- **Action Alternative:** Hydra MT LLC would have permission to drill the well for use as a class II injection well.
III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. AIR QUALITY

Long drilling time: No, 2-3 days.
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No.
Possible H2S gas production: None anticipated.
In/near Class I air quality area: No
Air quality permit for flaring/venting: No, this is a disposal well.

Comments: No special concerns – using rig to drill to 8140’ MD, 5714’ TVD for use as a class II injection well.

4. WATER QUALITY

Salt/oil based mud: freshwater to be used on surface hole. An oil-based mud will be used on main hole.
High water table: No.
Surface drainage leads to live water: No, the nearest drainage is Fourmile Creek 2/5 of a mile to the east.

Water well contamination: GWIC lists two water wells about ½ of a mile to the southeast. One of these wells is listed as a stockwater well with a depth of 110’. The other well does not have a use or depth listed. Two stockwater wells with depths of 50’ and 200’ are located about 350’ to the northwest.

Porous/permeable soils: No, sandy clay.
Class I stream drainage: No.
Groundwater vulnerability area: No.
Mitigation:
  X Lined reserve pit
  X Adequate surface casing
  X Berms/dykes, re-routed drainage
  X Closed mud system
  X Off-site disposal of solids/liquids (in approved facility)
Comments: Steel surface casing to be set at 1,880’ to protect ground water. (Rule 36.22.1001).

5. SOILS/VEGETATION/LAND USE

Vegetation: Cultivated field.
Stream crossings: None anticipated.
High erosion potential: No, small cut of 7.7’ and a small fill of 8.2’ required.
Loss of soil productivity: No, location to be restored after drilling, if plugged.
Unusually large wellsite (Describe dimensions): No, 411’ by 403’.

Damage to improvements: Slight.
Conflict with existing land use/values: Slight.

Mitigation
__ Avoid improvements (topographic tolerance)
__ Exception location requested
X Stockpile topsoil
__ Stream Crossing Permit (other agency review)
__ Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive
__ Special construction methods to enhance reclamation

Access Road: Access will be off CR 351, CR 140, and existing dirt road. A new access of 154’ will be built into location.

Drilling fluids/solids: All drilling solids/liquids will be transported and disposed of by Wisco.

6. HEALTH HAZARDS/NOISE

Proximity to public facilities/residences: No residences within a ½ mile radius. Nearest town is Fairview, MT and is about 6 miles to the southeast.
Possibility of H2S: None anticipated.
Size of rig/length of drilling time: Small rig, 2-3 days drilling time.

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

7. WILDLIFE/RECREATION

Sage Grouse: No.
Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): None identified.
Proximity to recreation sites: None.
Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: None.
Conflict with game range/refuge management: None.
Threatened or endangered Species: Species listed as threatened or endangered in Richland County, MT are the Pallid Sturgeon, Red Knot, Piping Plover, Whooping Crane, and Northern Long-eared Bat. The Monarch Butterfly is a candidate species. The Montana Natural Heritage Program lists three (3) species of concern, Whooping Crane, Northern Redbelly Dace, and Iowa Darter.
Mitigation:
__ Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)
__ Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DNRC Trust Lands)
__ Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite
__ Other:

Comments: Private cultivated 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.

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<tr>
<th>EA Checklist</th>
<th>Name: John Gizicki</th>
<th>Date: 7/14/22</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepared By:</td>
<td>Title: Compliance Specialist</td>
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