Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment

Operator: Somont Oil Company, Inc.
Well Name/Number: State 36 #73
Location: S NE Section 36 T35N R2W
County: Toole **MT; Field (or Wildcat)** Kevin Sunburst

Air Quality

(possible concerns)
Long drilling time: No, 2 to 4 days drilling time.
Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, single derrick drilling rig to drill to 1335' TD.
Possible H2S gas production: None.
In/near Class I air quality area: No Class I air quality area.
Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive): Yes, DEQ air quality permit required under 75-2-211.

Mitigation:
X Air quality permit (AQB review)
__ Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas
__ Special equipment/procedures requirements
__ Other:_____

Comments: No special concerns – using small single derrick drilling rig to drill to 1335'TD.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)
Salt/oil based mud: No, freshwater, freshwater mud system, air or mud drilling system to be used depending on hole conditions
High water table: No high water table anticipated.
Surface drainage leads to live water: No live water nearby. Only depressions nearby are alkali flats with alkaline waters.
Water well contamination: No, no water wells within 1 mile of this location.
Porous/permeable soils: No, silty sandy bentonitic soils.
Class I stream drainage: No Class I stream drainages.

Mitigation:
__ Lined reserve pit
X Adequate surface casing
__ Berms/dykes, re-routed drainage
__ Closed mud system
__ Off-site disposal of solids/liquids (in approved facility)
__ Other: _____

Comments: 1300' of surface/production casing cemented to surface. No shallow freshwater zones in this area. Also, fresh water air/mist/freshwater mud systems to be used to drill this well.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)
Steam crossings: No, stream crossings anticipated.

High erosion potential: Small cut, up to 2.3' and small fill, up to 2.5', required.
Loss of soil productivity: No, location will be restored after drilling if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drill site will be reclaimed.
Unusually large wellsite: No, 200'X200' location size required.
Damage to improvements: Slight, surface use is grassland.
Conflict with existing land use/values Slight

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

Comments: Access will be over existing county gravel roads and 2 track trails. About 100 ft. of new road will built into location. Drilling fluids will be stored in tanks after use on a location for future use. Cuttings will be buried in the mud pits. No special concerns.

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)
Proximity to public facilities/residences: None nearby. Closest residences are about 7/10 of a mile to the northwest, 9/10 mile to the west northwest, and about 1 mile north from this location.
Possibility of H2S: None.
Size of rig/length of drilling time: Small drilling rig/short 2 to 4 days drilling time.

Mitigation:
__ Proper BOP equipment
__ Topographic sound barriers
__ H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan
__ Special equipment/procedures requirements
_X_ Other: BOP requirement waived 36.22.1014 at the request of the operator. Operator will install a 4 ½" orbit valve on the 4 ½" casing prior to drilling into the Swift formation. Swift Formation is very tight sandstone.

Comments: No concerns.

Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)
Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): None identified.
Proximity to recreation sites: None
Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: No
Conflict with game range/refuge management: No
Threatened or endangered Species Listed threatened or endangered species in Toole County is the Black Footed Ferret, candidate species is the Sprague's Pipit. The Montana Natural Heritage Program lists six (6) species of concern: Hoary Bat, Little Brown Myotis, Ferruginous Hawk, Chest-nut Collared Longspur, McCown's Longspur, and Brewer's Sparrow.

Mitigation:

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

Comments: State of Montana leased cultivated surface lands. 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. State of Montana "Trust Lands" minerals and surface. Trust Lands will do surface EA.

Historical/Cultural/Paleontological

(possible concerns)

Proximity to known sites None identified

Mitigation

__ avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)
_X other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)
__ Other:_____

Comments: State of Montana leased cultivated surface lands. 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. State of Montana "Trust Lands" minerals and surface. Trust Lands will do surface EA.

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

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

Comments: No concerns. Existing oil field, Kevin Sunburst Oil & Gas Field.

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 1335' Swift Formation test. A development well in the Kevin Sunburst Oil & Gas Field.

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/ John Gizicki
(title:) Compliance Specialist
Date: May 06, 2015

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website
(Name and Agency)
Toole County water wells
(subject discussed)

May 06, 2015
(date)

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)
(Name and Agency)
Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T35N R2W
(subject discussed)

May 06, 2015
(date)

Montana Cadastral Website
(Name and Agency)
Surface Ownership and surface use Section 36 T35N R2W
(subject discussed)

May 06, 2015
(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website
(Name and Agency)
ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES
MONTANA COUNTIES, Toole County
(subject discussed)

May 06, 2015
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:
Inspection date: _____
Inspector: _____
Others present during inspection: _____