

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

**Proposed Action:** Approve Drilling Permit (Form 22)

**Operator:** Somont Oil Company, Inc.

**Well Name/Number:** Ellingson 9Z

**Location:** NE NW Section 23 T35N R3W

**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 2000' TD.

Possible H2S gas production: Slight amount of H2S gas from Madison Formation.

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 small single derrick drilling rig to drill to 2000' TD.

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: No, Freshwater mud system to be used.

High water table: No high water table anticipated.

Surface drainage leads to live water: No live water nearby only alkali dry lake flats.

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, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: 1750' of surface/production casing cemented to surface adequate. No potable water in this area. Also, fresh water air/mist/freshwater mud systems to be used. If drill mud is used, it will be reclaimed and stored in tanks until next use.

**Soils/Vegetation/Land Use**

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: No, stream crossings anticipated.

High erosion potential: No, no cut required and a small fill of 3.2' 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

Stockpile topsoil

Stream Crossing Permit (other agency review)

Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive

Special construction methods to enhance reclamation

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: No special concerns.

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### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: None nearby

Possibility of H2S: Slight chance of H2S from Madison Formation.

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

Other: BOP requirements waived for depleted Madison Formation reservoir

in the Kevin Oil Field.

Comments: 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: Listed threatened or endangered species in Toole County is the Black Footed Ferret. Species of concern is the Sprague's Pipit. NH Tracker website lists eleven (11) species of concern. Hoary Bat, Golden Eagle, Little Brown Myotis, Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Peregrine Falcon, McCown's Longspur, Loggerhead Shrike, Brewer's Sparrow and Plains Spadefoot.

Mitigation:

Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)

Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)

Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Surface is private land. 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: Surface is private land. 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: No concerns. Existing oil field, Kevin Sunburst Oil & Gas Field.

**Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

Well is a 2000' Madison 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: 09/04/2015

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)  
Water wells in Toole County  
(subject discussed)  
09/04/2015  
(date)

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

09/04/2015  
(date)

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)  
(Name and Agency)  
Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T35N R3W  
(subject discussed)

09/04/2015  
(date)

Montana Cadastral Website  
(Name and Agency)  
Surface Ownership and surface use Section 23 T35N R3W  
(subject discussed)

09/04/2015  
(date)

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