

# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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

**Project/Well Name:** Charger 14-11 2F XW 1H

**Operator:** Devon Energy Williston L,L,C.

**State:** Montana

**Location:** NWNW T28N R59E Sec. 23

**County:** Roosevelt

**Field (or Wildcat):** Wildcat

**Proposed Project Date:** TBD

## I. DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Triple derrick drilling rig to drill a single lateral horizontal Bakken Formation test, 26,257' MD/10,454' TVD.

## II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

10 days from public notification opportunity to protest for hearing:

- Published in Helena Independent Record on 10/25/2025.
- Published in Northern Plains Independent on 10/30/2025.

No written demand for hearing has been filed per ARM 36.22.601 as of 11/10/2025.

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

US Fish and Wildlife, ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES MONTANA COUNTIES, Roosevelt County

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)  
Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T28N R59E

Montana Cadastral Website  
Surface Ownership and surface use Section 23 T28N R59E

Montana Department of Natural Resources MEPA Submittal

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service-Soils Map

### B. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

**No Action Alternative:** Permit to drill the well would not be issued by BOGC.

**Action Alternative:** Referred to the BOGC for further environmental review.

### III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

#### A. AIR QUALITY

**Long drilling time:** No, 5-10 days.

**Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig):** No

**Emission sources:** Vehicles traveling on county road to location, combustion engines on location during drilling operations. Fugitive dust from traveling operations and location during active drilling.

**Possible H2S gas production:** Potentially in Mississippian formations.

**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 – Triple derrick drilling rig to drill a single lateral horizontal Bakken Formation test, 26,257' MD/10,454' TVD. If there are no gas gathering systems nearby, associated gas can be flared under Board Rule 36.22.1220.

#### B. WATER QUALITY

**Salt/oil-based mud:** Steel surface casing hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud system to 1950', Rule 36.22.100.1. Will drill with oil-based invert drilling fluids for the intermediate casing hole. Horizontal hole will be drilled with saltwater.

**High water table:** No.

**Surface drainage leads to live water:** No, the nearest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral drainage about 1/5 of a mile to the west. A stock pond exists in drainage about 1/2 of a mile to the south.

**Water well contamination:** GWIC does not list any water wells within a 1-mile radius. The topo map submitted with the permit application shows two wells labeled as monitoring wells about ½ of a mile to the north. GWIC lists these wells as petroleum wells.

**Porous/permeable soils:** No, 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)
- Other:

**Comments:** Steel surface casing will be run to 1950' and cemented back to surface to protect freshwater zones (Fox Hills aquifer) in adjacent water wells, Rule 36.22.1001. Adequate surface casing and BOP equipment to prevent problems, (5,000 psi annular and double ram), Rule 36.22.1014.

#### C. SOILS/VEGETATION/LAND USE

**Vegetation:** Grassland.

**Stream crossing:** None anticipated.

**Erosion potential:** High, large cut of 38.1' and a large fill of 20.0' required.

**Loss of soil productivity:** No, location will be restored after drilling if unproductive.

**Unusually large wellsite (Describe dimensions):** A large wellsite for a six well pad, 430' by 650'.

**Damage to improvements:** Slight.

**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

**Access road:** Hwy 2 and 156th Ave. NW. A new access of 1.2 miles will be built into location.

**Drilling fluids/solids:** Closed loop system. Drill cuttings shall be temporarily collected in metal containers at the surface and hauled to a licensed disposal facility (WISCO Oilfield Special Waste Landfill in Williston, ND).

## D. HEALTH HAZARDS/NOISE

**Proximity to public facilities/residences:** No residences within a 1/4 mile radius. The Town of Bainville is located about 7 miles to the southwest.

**Possibility of H2S:** Possibility in Mississippian formations.

**Size of rig/length of drilling time:** Triple derrick, 5-10 days.

**Mitigation:**

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

## E. WILDLIFE/RECREATION

**Sage Grouse:** No.

**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 within 5 miles:** Species listed as threatened or endangered in Roosevelt County, MT are the Pallid Sturgeon, Piping Plover, Whooping Crane, and Northern Myotis. The Montana Natural Heritage Program lists four (4) species of concern, the Whooping Crane, Bobolink, Snapping Turtle, and Bat Roost.

**Mitigation:**

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

**Comments:** Private grasslands. There may be species of concern that may be 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

### A. HISTORICAL/CULTURAL/PALEONTOLOGICAL

**Proximity to known sites:**

**Mitigation:**

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

**Other:** The Board of Oil & Gas has no jurisdiction over private surface lands.

## B. 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.

<b>EA Checklist</b>	<b>Name:</b> Allison YoungSwallow	<b>Date:</b> 11/26/2025
<b>Prepared By:</b>	<b>Title:</b> Compliance Technician	