

# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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

**Project/Well Name:** Candee Switch 06-07-1H

**Operator:** White Rock Oil & Gas, LLC.

**State:** Montana

**Location:** SENE T24N R53E Sec. 6

**County:** Richland

**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, 23,287' MD/9,169' TVD.

## II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

10 days from public notification opportunity to protest for hearing:

- Published in the Helena Independent Record on 3/5/2026.
- Published in the Sidney Herald on 3/7/2026.

No written demand for hearing has been filed per ARM 36.22.601 as of 3/17/2026.

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

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

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)  
Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T24N R53E

Montana Cadastral Website  
Surface Ownership and surface use Section 6 T24N R53E

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, 10-20 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 H<sub>2</sub>S 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 to 23,287' MD/9,169' TVD.

#### B. WATER QUALITY

**Salt/oil-based mud:** Steel surface casing hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud system to 1200', Rule 36.22.1001. 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:** There is an unnamed ephemeral drainage approximately 1086' northeast of location.

**Water well contamination:** There are two water wells within a ½ mile radius. There is a stockwater well approximately 531' south with a total depth of 150' and static water level of 25'. There is an abandoned stockwater well approximately 2459' northeast with a total depth of 178'. The surface hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud to 1200' and steel surface casing will be run and cemented back to the surface to protect groundwater.

**Porous/permeable soils:** No, silty clay loam.

**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 1200' 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:** Badlands.

**Stream crossing:** None anticipated.

**Erosion potential:** High, cut of up to 24.8' and fill of up to 16.8'.

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

**Unusually large wellsite (Describe dimensions):** A well site of 470' X 400' required for a four-well pad.

**Damage to improvements:** None, badlands.

**Conflict with existing land use/values:** None.

**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 will be from a +/- 3031' proposed road from existing road to BR 41-6H 43 wellpad.

**Drilling fluids/solids:** White Rock Oil & Gas, LLC. will not be utilizing a drilling pit. Drilling fluids and solids will be transported to a state approved disposal facility.

**Comments:**

## D. HEALTH HAZARDS/NOISE

**Proximity to public facilities/residences:** There are no occupied structures within a ¼ mile radius. The closest occupied structure is approximately 1.92 miles northeast in SWSW Section 30 T25N R53E.

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

**Size of rig/length of drilling time:** 10-20 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:** Loggerhead Shrike, and Little Brown Myotis.

**Mitigation:**

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

**Comments:** Badlands. 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.

|                              |                                     |                       |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| EA Checklist<br>Prepared By: | <b>Name:</b> Allison YoungSwallow   | <b>Date:</b> 6/3/2026 |
|                              | <b>Title:</b> Compliance Technician |                       |