

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Proposed Action: Approve Drilling Permit (Form 22)

Project/Well Name: Norgaard 7-19-5H

Operator: White Rock Oil & Gas, LLC.

State: Montana

Location: SESW T23N R58E 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, 26,119' MD/10,333' 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 8/29/2026.
- Published in the Sidney Herald on 8/29/2026.

No written demand for hearing has been filed per ARM 36.22.601 as of 9/8/2026.

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, T23N R58E

Montana Cadastral Website
Surface Ownership and surface use Section 6 T23N R58E

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 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 to 26,119’MD/10,333’ TVD.

B. WATER QUALITY

Salt/oil-based mud: Steel surface casing hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud system to 2000’, 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 615’ south and 2116’ west of location and has a large stock pond along its length to the west. There is another ephemeral drainage approximately 1225’ east of location. These two drainages have a confluence with each other approximately 2293’ southeast of location.

Water well contamination: There are two water wells within a ½ mile radius. There is a stockwater well approximately 2437’ southeast that has no assigned use or test data available. There is a domestic well approximately 2658’ northwest with a total depth of 95’ and static water level 63’. The surface hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud to 2000’ and steel surface casing will be run and cemented back to the surface to protect groundwater.

Porous/permeable soils: No, loam soils.

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 2000’ 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: Grazing land/fallow farmland.

Stream crossing: None anticipated.

Erosion potential: High, cut of up to 21.6’ and fill of up to 7.4’.

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

Unusually large wellsite (Describe dimensions): A well site of 500'X 500' required for a seven-well pad.

Damage to improvements: Slight, to grazing land/fallow farmland.

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 +/- 3332' proposed road from County Road 129.

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 0.54 miles northwest in SWNE Section 6 T23N R58E.

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: Whooping Crane, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Hoary Bat, Little Brown Myotis, Silver-haired Bat, Silver-haired Bat, and Iowa Darter.

Mitigation:

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

Comments: Grazing land/fallow farmland. 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
Prepared By:**

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Title: Compliance Technician

Date: 9/21/2026