CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Proposed Action: Approve Drilling Permit (Form 22)
Project/Well Name: Ross 1
Operator: Hereford Resources LLC
State: Montana
Location: SESW T33N R9E Sec. 3
County: Hill
Field (or Wildcat): Rudyard Eagle Gas
Proposed Project Date: TBD

I. DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Triple derrick drilling rig to drill a single vertical Souris River, Red River Formation test, 6300' TVD.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)
Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T33N R9E

Montana Cadastral Website
Surface Ownership and surface use Section 3 T33N R9E

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 vertical Souris River, Red River Formation test, 6300' TVD.

B. WATER QUALITY

Salt/oil-based mud: Steel surface casing hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud system to 6300', Rule 36.22.1001. Will drill with freshwater based drilling fluids for the production hole.
High water table No.
Surface drainage leads to live water: There is an unnamed ephemeral drainage approximately 1268' east of location.
Water well contamination: There are three water wells within a ½ mile radius. There is a domestic and stockwater well approximately 1874' northeast with a total depth of 18' and static water level of 18'. There is a well approximately 2097' west that has no assigned use or test data available. There is a well approximately 2394' north that has no assigned use or test data available. The surface hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud to 615' and steel surface casing will be run and cemented back to the surface to protect groundwater.
Porous/permeable soils: No, clay loam.
Class I stream drainage: None.
Groundwater vulnerability area: Yes.

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

Comments: Steel surface casing will be run to 615' and cemented back to surface to protect freshwater zones in adjacent water wells, Rule 36.22.1001. Adequate surface casing and BOP equipment to prevent problems, (3,000 psi annular and double ram), Rule 36.22.1014.

C. SOILS/VEGETATION/LAND USE

Vegetation: Cultivated farmland.
Stream crossing: None anticipated.
Erosion potential: Low, cut of up to 2' and fill of up to 1.6'.
Loss of soil productivity: No, location will be restored after drilling if unproductive.
Unusually large wellsite (Describe dimensions): A well site of 350'X 250' required for a single-well pad.
Damage to improvements: Slight, to cultivated farmland.
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

Access road: Access will be from a +/- 1150' proposed road from an existing dirt road off of Rudyard Road North.
Drilling fluids/solids: Hereford Resources LLC will be utilizing a pit for cuttings.
Comments:

D. HEALTH HAZARDS/NOISE

Proximity to public facilities/residences: The closest occupied residence is approximately 0.25 miles southwest in SWSW Section 3 T33N R9E.
Possibility of H2S: Possibility in Mississippian formations.
Size of rig/length of drilling time: 10-20 days.

Mitigation:

X 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: Ferruginous Hawk.

Mitigation:

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

Comments: Cultivated 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:	**Name:**	Allison YoungSwallow	**Date:**	10/14/2026
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