

# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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

**Project/Well Name:** Graham 13-12-1-1H

**Operator:** Black Dog Operating, LLC

**State:** Montana

**Location:** SWSE T29N R57E Sec.13

**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, 26,003' MD/10,021' 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 4/3/2025.

Published in Northern Plains Independent on 4/3/2025.

No written demand for hearing has been filed per ARM 36.22.601 as of 4/14/2025.

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

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

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)  
Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T29N R57E

Montana Cadastral Website  
Surface Ownership and surface use Section 13 T29N R57E

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, 14-20 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, 26,003' MD/10,021' 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: Surface casing hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud system, 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, closest drainage is East Shotgun Creek which is an ephemeral drainage approximately 300' west of well.

Water well contamination: No water wells located within ½ mile. The closest water well is a domestic well approximately 0.8 miles east of location with a total depth of 77' and static water level of 32'. The surface hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud to 2000' and steel surface casing will be run and cemented to surface to protect groundwater.

Porous/permeable soils: No, silty 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 and cemented to surface to protect ground water. (Rule 36.22.1001).

Comments: Surface hole will be drilled with a freshwater mud system to 2000'. Steel surface casing will be run to 2000' and cemented back to surface to protect freshwater zones in adjacent water wells, Rule 36.22.1001. Also, covering Fox Hills aquifer. 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: Cultivated field

Stream crossings: None

High erosion potential: Slight, cut of up to 15' and a fill of up to 14'

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

Unusually large wellsite (Describe dimensions): A large well site 465'X 600' required for a 4-well pad.

Damage to improvements: Slight, cultivated field.

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: Access will be from CR 2051.

Drilling fluids/solids: Black Dog will not be utilizing a drilling pit. Drilling fluids and solids will be transported to a state approved disposal facility.

## **D. HEALTH HAZARDS/NOISE**

Proximity to public facilities/residences: One occupied structure within 1320' (1/4 mile) approximately 1,040' to the southeast in the NWNE Section 24 T29N R57E. Permit includes notification to occupants, Tim & Cheryl Graham of Permit to drill per ARM 36.22.620(2). No demand to be heard received from notified parties, per ARM 36.22.620(5).

Possibility of H2S: Possibility in Mississippian formations.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: 14-20 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, Baird's Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Northern Pearl Dace, Silver-haired Bat, and Long-eared Myotis.

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: Ben Davis

Date: 10/22/2025

Title: Technical Program Coordinator

