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APR 20 2005

DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES - RCRO

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO DRILL

Type of work: Drill New Well Reenter Well Drill Directional Well Other _____

Type of well: Oil Well Gas Well Injection Other _____

Name and Address of Operator: The Houston Exploration Co. 1100 Louisiana; Suite 2000; Houston, TX 77002 Telephone (713) 830-6800

Name and Address of Surface Owner: Frank & Robbie Christensen 3509 Bayshore Road; Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Name and Address of Drilling Contractor and Rig Number: Caza Drilling Inc. P.O. Box 17805; Denver, CO. 80217 Rig #234

Surface Location of well: Qtr-Qtr, Sec, Twp, Rge, County, feet from nearest lines of section, and latitude and longitude (if available):
 SESE of Sec 20, T7N, R27E; Stanley County; 996' FSL & 394' FEL; Lat=44.548419, Long=100.874786

If Directional, top of pay and bottom hole location from nearest lines of section:
 NA

Acres in Spacing (Drilling) Unit: 40 Description of Spacing Unit: SE/4 SE/4 of Sec 20, T7N, R27E

Well Name and Number		Elevation	Field and Pool, or Wildcat		Proposed Depth and Formation
Barrick #16-20		2007.2'	Wildcat		2500' - Dakota Sandstone
Size of Hole	Size of Casing	Weight per Foot	Depth	Cementing Program (amount, type, additives)	Depth
1) 9-7/8"	7"	20	350'	150 sxs Type 3 cmt w/2% CaCl	surf
2) 6-1/4"	4-1/2"	10.5	2500'	100 sxs Type 3 cmt w/2% CaCl	1500'-
3)					2500'
4)					

Describe Proposed Operations (Clearly State all Pertinent Details, and Give Pertinent Dates, Including Estimated Date of Starting any Proposed Work). Use additional page(s) if appropriate.

Move in & rig up drilling rig, drill 9-7/8" hole to 350', run & cement 7" surface casing, circulate cement to surface, drill 6-1/4" hole to 2500', log, run & cement 4-1/2" casing if productive.

Start Date: 6/5/2005
 End Date: 6/9/2005
 Note: 12 ml pit liner will be used on all earthen pits.

I hereby certify that the foregoing as to any work or operation performed is a true and correct report of such work or operation.

Lloyd Bruce Signature Lloyd Bruce Name (Print)

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 Operations Engineer Title
 WESTERN FIELD OFFICE
 4-19-05 Date

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Approved By: *Fred Justice* Title: Oil & Gas Supervisor

Permit No. 1734 API No. 40 117 20021 Date Issued: 05/03/05

Conditions, if any, on attached page.