

**From:** [Jerry Thorstad](#)  
**To:** [diana.burn@state.co.us](mailto:diana.burn@state.co.us)  
**Cc:** [John Schmidt](#); [David Stewart](#); [Erin Lind](#); [Chad Taylor \(Contractor\)](#)  
**Subject:** Melbon Ranch 4H-17H-M265  
**Date:** Friday, January 04, 2019 9:15:22 AM  
**Importance:** High

---

Diana

This email is being sent to document an open-hole sidetrack that was performed in the Melbon Ranch 4H-17H-M265.

**This open-hole sidetrack was performed without receiving prior COGCC approval.**

Further required COGCC Forms will be forth-coming, **FORM 2, FORM 5** for original wellbore.

All future UNPLANNED Sidetrack Operations will follow the guidelines as presented in the COGCC Document Statewide UNPLANNED Sidetrack Approval Reporting\_11-6-2013.pdf

My apologies for the error in meeting the required COGCC Compliance Requirements.

Specific well details are listed below per COGCC Document Statewide UNPLANNED Sidetrack Approval Reporting\_11-6-2013.pdf

**Melbon Ranch 4H-17H-M265**

Original API# 05-123-47754 00

SWSW S17-T2N-R64W, Weld County CO

SHL: 1225 FSL / 219 FWL

BHL: 890 FFSLL / 460 FFELL

**Explanation of the situation that resulted in the need to sidetrack:**

The Melbon Ranch 4H-17H-M265 encountered graben faulting that dropped the Sharon Springs formation significantly deeper than originally planned.

As drilling operations progressed in the lateral, faulting was encountered and the Sharon Springs formation was drilled from 8,438 ft MD to 8,598 ft MD (~160 ft).

Drilling operations were stopped at this point, and based on previous lost fish/sidetrack operations experienced on the Melbon Ranch 4E-17H-M265 (well on same pad) an open-hole sidetrack was performed.

**Total measured depth reached in the wellbore being plugged back:**

8,598 ft MD / 7,121 ft TVD

**Casing set – size(s) and measured depth(s):**

16" 40 lb/ft A252 conductor pipe set at 121 ft TVD, cemented back to surface

9-5/8" 40 lb/ft J55 LTC surface casing set at 2,377 ft MD / 2,367 ft TVD, cemented back to surface

**Description of fish in the hole (if any):**

No fish in wellbore

**Description of proposed plugs: setting measured depths, heights, and cement volumes:**

No cement/mechanical plugs set

**Type of cement to be used for all plugs, including slurry weight (ppg) and yield (cf/sk):**

No cement/mechanical plugs set

**Measured depth of proposed sidetrack kick-off point:**

Actual KOP was 7,781 ft MD / 7,161 ft TVD

**Proposed objective formation(s) for sidetrack hole – new or same as the wellbore being abandoned:**

Same formation – Niobrara

**BHL target for sidetrack hole – new or same as the wellbore being abandoned:**

Same BHL as wellbore being abandoned

**MELBON RANCH 4H-17H-M265 Open-Hole Sidetrack**

No change to original approved well SHL or BHL coordinates.

Original Wellbore TD: 8,598 ft MD / 7,121 ft TVD (within faulted Sharon Springs formation, ~8,438 ft to 8,598 ft = 160 ft, remaining footage was within Niobrara formation)

Open-Hole KOP: 7,781 ft MD / 7,161 ft TVD (within faulted Niobrara formation)

No cement/mechanical plug was set for the open hole sidetrack operations.

Sidetrack Wellbore TD: 12,004 ft MD / 7,023 ft TVD

5.5" production casing was run to 12,004 ft MD and cemented as per original plan with no issues .