File #_____

DS-252

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION CHECKLIST

PROPOSED ACTION Surface Sampling & Drill hole exploration

COUNTY Fergus TOWNSHIP 17N RANGE 20E SECTION 16

RECEIVED
DEC 29 1992
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

(*Yes)	(No)	(NA)	
X			1. Significant use of area by important wildlife and fish species.
	X		2. Important vegetation communities present which may influence or be influenced by proposed project.
	X		3. Significant historical, archaeological, or paleontological resource present.
X			4. Significant topographic features, terrain or aesthetic values present.
X			5. Reconstruction of existing roads or trails, or new road is proposed.
X			6. Important surface or groundwater resources present.
X			7. Fragile, compactible, or unstable soils present.
	X		8. Buildings, structures, pipelines, powerlines or other utilities located nearby.
	X		9. Land has been included as part of a baseline study or other type of report for any purpose. (e.g. Natural Area Program, Resource Development Bureau projects, rights-of-way, easements, or other leasing actions)
	X		10. Previously permitted or leased activities on this tract resulted in special protective stipulations.
	X		11. Present tract management is influenced significantly by adjacent state, federal or private land management practices.
	X		12. Tract is near designated Class I air area, or non-attainment area.
X			13. Tract contains areas with unique or special reclamation considerations (past mining, erosion, saline seep, etc.)

14. Additional Comments: (If so, explain in narrative)

15. Public Interest:

Prepared by: Bruce A. Reid Title: Forester II

Based on my review of the above action, I have concluded that an EA is/is not required because:

_____

_____

Area Manager/Bureau Chief Craig E. Roberts Date 11/7/92

*Explain all "yes" answers in narrative form.

1) Area is used heavily on a seasonal basis by Mule deer & Elk.
4) Part of scenic viewshed in Judith mtns.
5) Drill hole sites may require reconstructed on New construct roads depending on exact location of proposed drillings
6) East Fk. Armells Cr. runs through tract
7) Some slopes are in excess of 50% and have potential to erode
13) Surrounding area has history of mining activity - open shafts and adits exist throughout area.

RECEIVED NOV 6 1992

Greg Hallsten

TO: Craig E. Roberts, Area Manager, NELO

FROM: Bruce Reid, Forester II, NELO Bruce

DATE: August 13, 1992

SUBJ: Closure of Blue Range Mine, Lease M-1806-90
Heller Application, Lease M-1847-92
Sec. 16, T17N, R20E, Fergus County

RECEIVED
NOV 09 1992
STATE LANDS

I just completed a field inspection of the Blue Range Mine operation on the above named tract.

Marion Heller, III accompanied me on the field inspection. Marion was aware of only three test holes drilled by Blue Range; I found only two sites (see attached map). Both sites have been reclaimed, however during the drilling of site #1, water was tapped. The depth is about 130' and the flow was about 80GPM. An attempt to cap the site was made but water is still flowing from around the well casing where it enters the ground. The condition of site #1 does not appear to be causing any problems and all other requirements of the Blue Range lease have been met.

I recommend releasing the bond on Lease M-1806-90.

Marion Heller and I also completed an initial field reconnaissance of their proposed mining activity today. At this point, only surface sampling and mapping are being proposed. Test holes and road building may follow depending on samples. I asked Marion to keep DSL-NELO informed and to contact this office prior to any earthwork and/or drilling on the section.

CER:cbf