

RECEIVED

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FEB 11 2004

Project Name: CX Field Area, 3-D Seismic Survey

Proposed Implementation Date: 11-17-03

Proponent: Fidelity Exploration and Production

Type and Purpose of Action: 2-D seismic Survey

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL

Location: T8S-R39E Sec 36, T9S-R39E Sec 36, T9S-R40E Sec 36, & T9S-R40E Sec 16

POLICY OFFICE

County: Big Horn

| I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT | |
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| 1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project. | This is a major seismic project involving not only Trust Lands but also BLM and various deeded holdings. State surface lessees were notified about proposed project and settled for surface damages. |
| 2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED: | BLM Permit to do seismic with county |
| 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: | 1. No Action 2. Proposal |
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| II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT | |
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| RESOURCE | [Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS |
| | N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below) |
| 4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? | [N]The work is to be done on frozen or dry ground, minimizing impacts. However, there are some exposed ridges, rock outcrops, and steep slopes. Inaccessible areas will be restricted from use or require using non-mechanized methods. |
| 5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? | [N]The seismic company will be required to comply with setback requirements on wells, dams, irrigation canals, and stockwater pipelines. They will also be required to flow-test any wells and pipelines before and after, to make sure there are no damages. Refer to Attachment "A" |
| 6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)? | [N] |

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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| <p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p> | <p>[N] This is mostly sagebrush-native grass vegetation. Some of the sagebrush could be altered temporarily with the heavy equipment traveling over it in a frozen, brittle state. This action may actually increase desirable forage production for the upcoming growth season. No rare plants have been encountered over this broad vegetation type.</p> |
| <p>8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p> | <p>[N] Area primarily used by Mule deer, Pronghorn Antelope, some upland gamebirds such as sage grouse and also various song birds. The short duration of the proposed activity could cause a temporary disruption of potential wintering grounds and cover. Effected wildlife should be able to move out of the area during the projects short duration. The project may prove beneficial in the short term to wildlife by creating more edge-effect and diverse habitats.</p> |
| <p>9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?</p> | <p>[N] Potential sagegrouse nesting habitat in all four tracts. This however, should not be a concern during the time frame when the work is to be completed.</p> |
| <p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p> | <p>[N] It is the Dept's, archeologist's opinion that this 2-D seismic activity will have no effect on cultural resources as long as it is completed on frozen or dry ground. However, found sites by the permittee will be marked and reported to the SLO for immediate inspection. SLO reserves the right to restrict seismic activities in given locations for the purpose of protecting significant cultural resources. Refer to #4 of Attachment "A"</p> |
| <p>11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?</p> | <p>[N] All four tracts can be described as rolling to rugged plains interspersed with wooded side slopes and rockoutcrops, and cut by occasional mesic to xeric coulees. The temporary nature of the proposal will pose no threat to the overall aesthetics of the area.</p> |
| <p>12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?</p> | <p>[N]</p> |

| II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT | |
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| 13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? | [Y] CBM production area |
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| III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION | |
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| RESOURCE | [Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES |
| 14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area? | [N] |
| 15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities? | [N] |
| 16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. | [N] |
| 17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? | [N] |
| 18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed? | [N] |
| 19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect? | [N] |

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| <p>20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?</p> | <p>[N] Legal public access is limited on all but Sec 36, T9S-R39E. This tract is accessed by State Hwy 314, and provides only marginal recreation possibilities due to it's proximity to this Hwy. Given legal access, the other three tracts would provide higher quality recreation potential due to their remoteness, ruggedness, and overall physical and biological diversity.</p> |
| <p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p> | <p>[N]</p> |
| <p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p> | <p>[N]</p> |
| <p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p> | <p>[N]</p> |
| <p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</p> | <p>[N] Information gathered in this project may lead to mineral development on State land that would be a financial benefit to the school trust.</p> |
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