

DNRC - Trust Land Management Division

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Natural Gas Pipeline	Proposed Implementation Date: January 30, 2004
Proponent: Bear Paw Energy, LLC, 16001 Bennie Pierce Road, Sidney, MT 59270	
Type and Purpose of Action: Bear Paw Energy has applied for a Land Use License to construct a six inch natural gas pipeline from the Barrett 14-16H well located on State land. The distance from the well to a gas connection line is 332.1 feet.	
Location: SW4SW4, Sec. 16 Twp. 29N Rge. 59E	County: Roosevelt

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I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Bear Paw Energy has submitted a Land Use License Application to the DNRC Glasgow Unit Office. The purpose of the Land Use License Application is to place a six inch natural gas line on State land.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The government agencies that may have jurisdiction for this project are the Department of Natural Resources Board of Oil and Gas.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant a Land Use License to Bear Paw Energy to place a six inch natural gas line on State land. No Action Alternative: Deny a Land Use License to Bear Paw Energy to place a six inch natural gas line on State land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are	This type of project will impact the soils at the pipeline route.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	The impacts are minimal and the area of impact will continue to produce tame grass vegetation over time from existing seed sources from the surrounding plant community.
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?	The project will not impact the surface water resources associated with this tract of State land. The project will have no impacts to other surface water resources on surrounding deeded lands.
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	The project will have no impacts on the air quality of the land involved with the installation of a six inch natural gas pipeline.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	The tame grass vegetation on the pipeline route will see some disturbance by this type of project. The tame grass vegetation will reproduce from existing seed sources.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	This type of activity will disturb the habitat types on the State land. The area of impact is small in scope and there will be minimal impacts to the wildlife and upland bird resources of the area.
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?	The project area contains no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	There are no known historical or archaeological sites on the areas to be impacted by this project. The DNRC archaeologist has been notified and given his consent to proceed with the project.
11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on	The project site is located in a

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	rural area and is visible to the general public by a county road. The project will have no impacts to the aesthetic values associated with the State land involved with this project.
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?	The project will place no demands on environmental resources of land, water, air or energy.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	The natural gas line installation will not impact other projects or plans that may be occurring on the State land.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	The installation of a natural gas pipeline has various human health and safety risks. The employer and employee identify the health and safety risks as occupational hazards.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	The project will not impact the current agricultural activities that are occurring on the State land.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	The project will not impact the quantity and distribution of employment.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	The project will have no impacts on the local or state tax base.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will	The project will place no demands for government services.

other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	The project will not impact locally adopted environmental plans and goals.
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?	The project will not impact the recreational values associated with the state land.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	The project will not impact the density and distribution of the population and housing in this rural area.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	The project will not impact the social structures of the local communities.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	The project will not impact the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the land.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	The project provides some economic benefit to the local community businesses that supply products to the company that will be constructing the natural gas pipeline.

EA Checklist Prepared By: Randy Dirkson Land Use Specialist Date: 1/30/04
Randy Dirkson Land Use Specialist

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Grant a Land Use License to Bear Paw Energy to place a six inch natural gas pipeline on State land.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL	The project will have no significant impacts to

IMPACTS:	the State land natural resource.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By:

R. Hoy + Richards

Name

Title

R. Hoy + Richards
Signature

2/17/04
Date: