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D.N.R.C.

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Power Line Installation, Bill Barrett Corp, State Lease 4467 (Elvin & Jim Horob Lessee's)	Proposed Implementation Date: Pending
Proponent: Bill Barrett Corporation	
Type and Purpose of Action: Installation of an above ground power line to service an oil well. The proposed power line will cross State Land in the NE ^{1/4} NE ^{1/4} & the NW ^{1/4} NE ^{1/4} , Sec. 16 T29N R59E.	
Location: S16 T29N R59E	County: Roosevelt Co.

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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.	MT Department of Natural Resources and Legislative Environmental Policy Office (DNRC, Elvin & Jim Horob State Lease Record will be informed by the Helena Minerals Mgt Bureau, Roosevelt Co. Farm Service Agency (FSA).
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	DNRC Trust Land Division. Roosevelt Co. FSA, the proposed project will cross a CRP tract. Applicant must get written permission from the FSA to install the power line on CRP land.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Install an above ground power line to distribute power to an oil well. NO Action Alternative: No power line will be installed.

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
	Action Alternative: No Action Alternative:
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	Action Alternative: The soils in this area are a silty loam and a Sandy loam (William-Zahill loams). The installation of the power poles will result in the permanent displacement of soils where the power poles are installed. Equipment used to install the power poles and power line will cause some temporary surface soil disturbance and compaction. NO Action Alternative: No soil will be displaced nor will any soil compaction occur.
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	Action Alternative: No surface or ground water will be effected. NO Action Alternative: No surface or ground water will

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?	be effected.
6.AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	<p>Action Alternative: Dust may be created during the installation of the power poles. The impact area will be small and localized.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: Air quality will not be effected in this area.</p>
7.VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	<p>Action Alternative: The vegetation in the area will be effected. The area of surface disturbance by the equipment used to install the power poles and power lines will be small and the vegetation will recover quickly. The vegetation where the power poles are placed will be permanently altered. According to the latest DNRC Trust Lands Field Evaluation, no rare plants were found in the area.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: Vegetation in this area will not be effected.</p>
8.TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	<p>Action Alternative: Terrestrial and aquatic wildlife will not be effected by the installation of this project. Avian species may find some benefits from the power poles and power lines. The power poles and power lines may also be of some hazards for Avian species.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: Wildlife, birds and fish will not be effected.</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>Action Alternative: No identified unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources have been recorded in this area.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: No resources in the area will be effected.</p>
10.HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	<p>Action Alternative: According to the 2003 DNRC Trust Lands Field Evaluation form, no cultural sites were observed within the project perimeter.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: No historical or archaeological sites will be disturbed.</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>Action Alternative: The power lines and power poles will be visible from a near by county road.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: The aesthetics in this area will not be effected.</p>
12.DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources	<p>Action Alternative: No other resources will be effected by this project.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	NO Action Alternative: No resources will be effected.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	<p>Action Alternative: There is a Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) grazing lease in this section. This lease authorizes livestock to graze in this section. The proposed project will be installed on a CRP tract; therefore, livestock grazing will not be effected by the installation of this project.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: There will be no impact on the DNRC grazing lease.</p>

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

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?	<p>Action Alternative: There will be some health and safety concerns associated with the installation of this project. The workers involved are aware of job related hazards. Upon completion of this project, there will be a high voltage power source in the area. The risks associated with this power line are no different than that of any overhead power source.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: No human health and safety risks will be developed in this area.</p>
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed power line is intended to supply power to an oil well. This will enhance industrial and commercial activities for the State of Montana.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: Industrial and commercial activities will not be effected.</p>
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	<p>Action Alternative: Job security for the workers currently employed by the Bill Barrett Corporation will be enhanced by the installation of this project.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: Job security for employees of the Bill Barrett Corporation will not be enhanced.</p>
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	<p>Action Alternative: Oil produced from the well that the proposed power line will service will increase local and State tax revenue.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: Local and State tax revenue will not be increased.</p>

<p>18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: There may be some increased traffic on local county roads due to service trucks sent to maintain the power line.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: Demands for government services will not be effected.</p>
<p>19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: No zoning or management plans will be effected.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: No zoning or management plans will be effected.</p>
<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>Action Alternative: Recreation in this area consists of deer hunting and upland bird hunting. The proposed project may effect bird hunting. Hunters will need to be cautious of overhead power lines.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: No recreational activities will be effected.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: Population and housing will not be effected.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: Population and housing will not be effected.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: Social structures will not be effected.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: Social structures will not be effected.</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The cultural uniqueness and diversity of this area will not be effected.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: The cultural uniqueness and diversity of this area will not be effected.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The proposed power lines will supply power to an oil well. The oil from the well will produce valuable tax revenues for the Sate of Montana. This project will also provide temporary job security for employees of the Bill Barrett Corporation.</p> <p>NO Action Alternative: No social or economic benefit would result.</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By:



Craig Biggart

Date: June 4, 2004

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Grant permission to install the poleline.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By R. Hoyt Richards
R. Hoyt Richards, Glasgow Unit Manager

Date: June 4, 2004