

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name: Proposed Exploratory Natural Gas Well, Access Road, &amp; Pipeline – SE Battle State #5-36 (SE¼SW¼NW¼)</b>	<b>Proposed Implementation Date: August 1, 2004</b>
<b>Proponent: Ominex Canada, Ltd., 65 East Granite, Suite 401, Box 10, Butte, MT 59701</b>	
<b>Type and Purpose of Action: Ominex Canada, Ltd. plans to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on a tract of state land. The surface and mineral rights are owned by the State of Montana's School Trust. If the natural gas well is capable of commercial production, Ominex Canada, Ltd. will construct a pipeline to transport the natural gas off this tract of state land. The pipeline will be connected to other gas wells that are in the process of being drilled on this section of land. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) is responsible for administrating all natural gas exploration on land owned by the State of Montana.</b>	
<b>Location: SE¼SW¼NW¼; Sec. 36, Twn. 35N, Rng. 21E</b>	<b>County: Blaine County, Montana</b>

### I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

<p>1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p><b>RECEIVED</b></p> <p>JUL 01 2004</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE</p> </div>	<p>The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has been petitioned by Ominex Canada, Ltd. to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on the above referenced tract of state land. If the natural gas well is capable of commercial production, Ominex Canada, Ltd. will install a pipeline to transport the natural gas off this tract of state land. The State of Montana owns the surface and mineral rights on this section of land. Trent Sizemore, Agent for Ominex Canada, Ltd. will contact the state's surface lessee, Martens Family Limited Partnership, C/o David Martens, regarding their intentions to drill a natural gas well and construct an access road into the well site on this tract of state land. Ominex Canada, Ltd. will settle all surface damages with the state's surface lessee within a reasonable time period following the completion of the well. Ominex Canada, Ltd. will pay the payment reduction for all damages sustained to the Conservation Reserve Program acreage on this tract of state land. If successful, the proposed natural gas well would generate additional revenue for the School Trust Fund of Montana and Ominex Canada, Ltd. in the form of royalties from the sale of natural gas.</p>
<p>2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:</p>	<p>The Montana DNRC/TLMD's; Havre Unit Office, Minerals Management Bureau, and the Montana Board of Oil and Gas are the only governmental agencies that have jurisdiction for this type of activity on state land.</p>

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Grant Ominex Canada, Ltd. permission to drill an exploratory natural gas well, construct an access road into the well site, and install a pipeline to transport the natural gas off the land, if the well is capable of commercial production. Mitigation measures will be used to limit the impact to the Conservation Reserve Program acreage.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> Deny Ominex Canada, Ltd. permission to drill an exploratory natural gas well on this tract of state land. Ominex Canada, Ltd. will not be allowed to construct any access roads on this tract of state land.</p>
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## II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
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?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The proposed natural gas well is located approximately 12 miles northeast of Zurich, Montana. Ominex Canada, Ltd. will disturb the soils on this tract of land by drilling an exploratory natural gas well and constructing an access road. The proposed natural gas well is located on a large upland bench with silty-loam soils. The soil in the immediate area of disturbance is suitable for this type of activity. During construction of the site, mitigation measures will be used to stockpile the topsoil upslope from the project, so that it may be used for reclaiming the site. The subsoil and excessive dirt will be stock piled in a separate pile, down-slope from the project and used first for fill. The same mitigation measures will be used for the installation of the pipeline, if the well is capable of commercial production. There are no special reclamation considerations for this project. No unusual geologic features are present in the area of disturbance. The Montana DNRC/TLMD's, Havre Unit Office has set up a reclamation plan for reclaiming the well site and the access road, if the well is not capable of commercial production.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The soils on this tract of state land will not be altered. The Montana DNRC will not need to implement a reclamation plan to reclaim the disturbed areas. There will be no surface damages to the Conservation Reserve Program acreage. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>

## II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>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?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The project will have a minimal impact on surface and groundwater resources in the surrounding area. Drilling an exploratory natural gas well will not impact the water quality, quantity, and distribution in this area. The location of the proposed gas well is rural area that is primarily used for wildlife habitat and erosion control as Conservation Reserve Program acreage. There is no potential for violating any ambient water quality standards. Drinking water will not be contaminated with this type of activity. The water quality will not be degraded. Currently, there are two natural gas wells already approved for drilling on this tract of state land. There will be no violation of ambient water quality standards, degradation of water quality, or contamination of drinking water by drilling this additional natural gas well.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The water quality, quantity, and distribution currently found in this area will not be disturbed. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>
<p>6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Drilling an exploratory natural gas well and constructing an access road will produce some dust particulates, throughout the entirety of drilling the natural gas well. There will also be some dust particulates produced during the installation of the pipeline, if the well is capable of commercial production. However, the air quality will return to normal once the natural gas well is drilled and the drill crew leaves the area. The project is not influenced by air quality regulations or zones. Substantial traffic in and out of this tract of state land will decrease.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The air quality currently found in this area will not be impacted. No dust particulates will be produced in this area, if the proponent is not granted permission to drill the well. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>

## II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?

**Action Alternative:** The vegetative communities in the immediate area of the disturbance will be permanently altered with this type of project. The proposed project area does not contain any rare plants or cover types. The area of disturbance is located on Conservation Reserve Program acreage that is seeded to crested wheatgrass and alfalfa. This tract of state land is primarily used for wildlife habitat and erosion control as CRP. The topsoil excavated from the site will be stock piled upslope from the project and used for reclaiming the site. The area of disturbance will be reclaimed with a mixture of crested wheatgrass and alfalfa. The reclamation plan will be incorporated as a stipulation for the well drilling permit. The reclamation plan will ensure the long-term, future forage productivity of the vegetation and erosion control on this tract of CRP.

**No Action Alternative:** The Conservation Reserve Program acreage consisting of crested wheatgrass and alfalfa will not be disturbed. The vegetative cover, quantity, and quality will remain in its current state. The topsoil will not be disturbed and there will be no need for a reclamation plan. No surface damages will be sustained to the Conservation Reserve Program acreage. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.

## II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:  
Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?

**Action Alternative:** The habitat found in the immediate area of disturbance will be slightly impacted with the construction of the well site and access road. The area of disturbance will be small in scope and shall be reclaimed with the terms and conditions outlined in the reclamation plan. The disturbed area will be reclaimed with crested wheatgrass and alfalfa. Many different types of wildlife species use this area for habitat. This area has a wildlife survey stipulation for swift fox. Crested wheatgrass is not substantial swift fox habitat and this project poses no threats towards this species. The proposed project will not have any long-term impacts on the wildlife species that currently inhabit this area. There are several existing natural gas wells in this area and many more proposed. An additional natural gas well will not impact the terrestrial and avian life and their associated habitats on this tract of state land.

**No Action Alternative:** The terrestrial and avian life and their habitats currently found in this area will not be disturbed. Wildlife and bird species will continue to use this area as they have in the past. Swift fox and their associated habitat will not be altered. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.

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?

**Action Alternative:** The proposed natural gas well, access road, and pipeline will have a minimal impact on the unique, endangered, fragile, and limited environmental resources present in this area. Once the natural gas well is drilled and the drill crew leaves the area, wildlife species will return to normal activities in this area. Swift fox use this area as habitat, but there is no confirmed use on this tract of land. Once the project is completed, the swift fox and other wildlife species will be able to migrate through this area with minimal impact. Staff from the DNRC's, Havre Unit Office surveyed the immediate area of disturbance for evidence of swift fox such as holes and scat and none were found. Wildlife species may be temporarily displaced by this project, but they will not be permanently relocated as a result of drilling this natural gas well. There are no wetlands located within the immediate area of disturbance.

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## II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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<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><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The unique, endangered, fragile and limited environmental resources found on this tract of state land will not be altered. Listed, threatened or endangered species will not be impacted in this area. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Staff from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has inspected the proposed well site, access road, and pipeline route for historical and archaeological resources. The proposed well site is located on Conservation Reserve Program acreage that was once used for dryland agricultural production. No visual surface features were identified in the immediate area to be disturbed. If buried historical or archaeological resources are discovered at any time during construction of the access road, pipeline, or the well site, the proponent will cease all activity and contact the MT DNRC's, Havre Unit Office (406)-265-5236.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> There are no known historical or archaeological resources present in the area of the proposed project. Unknown historical or archaeological features under the surface will not be disturbed. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>

## II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<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><b>Action Alternative:</b> If successful, the natural gas well will be a prominent topographic feature. The natural gas well will not be visible to the public. The project is located approximately 12 miles northeast of Zurich, Montana. The land is primarily used for wildlife habitat and erosion control as Conservation Reserve Program acreage. The project will produce some excessive noise during the initial stages of drilling. Once the well is drilled and the drill crew leaves the area, noise levels will return to normal. The area of the proposed project is being developed for natural gas production and several gas wells are being drilled in the surrounding area at this point in time.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The aesthetics that are currently found on this tract of state land will not be altered. The natural gas well will not become a prominent topographic feature. The Conservation Reserve Program acreage will continue to be used primarily for wildlife habitat and erosion control. No excessive noise will be produced by the drilling rig and its crew. Wildlife species will not be temporarily displaced by the excessive human activity in this area. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</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><b>Action Alternative:</b> This project will demand the environmental resources of natural gas and a small portion of land for the drill pad area, access road, and pipeline. Demands on the environmental resources of water and air will be minimal. Once the project is completed, the proponent will reclaim the site, if the well does not produce justifiable gas flow. If the well is showing good commercial production, the proponent will install a natural gas pipeline to transport the natural gas off this tract of land. Ominex will reclaim the disturbed areas regardless of whether or not the well is capable of commercial production.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> There will be no demands on the environmental resources of land, water, air, or energy that are currently found on this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?

**Action Alternative:** The Montana DNRC will continue to explore for natural gas resources on tracts of land that have mineral rights owned by the State of Montana. The mineral rights belong to the State of Montana's, School Trust Fund and revenue brought in from these developments will continue to be used for educational purposes in the State of Montana. The MT DNRC will continue to explore and develop natural gas facilities as long as they are environmentally safe. The goal of the Montana DNRC/TLMD is to manage the State of Montana's trust land resources to produce revenue for the trust beneficiaries, while considering environmental factors and protecting the future income-generating capacity of the land. There is some study of this area for swift fox habitat and how new developments could threaten an already threatened species in this area. This project may temporarily displace swift fox in this area, but they seem to be very resilient to human activity. Once the project is completed and human activity ceases in this area, all wildlife species will return to their normal activities.

**No Action Alternative:** The Montana DNRC does not have any other studies, plans, or projects proposed for this tract of state land at this time. The Montana DNRC will continue to administer all surface and subsurface licensed activities on this tract of state land, in accordance with Montana State Statute. There are no other environmental documents pertinent to the area, other than what has been described in this Environmental Assessment Checklist. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of 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?	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Ominex Canada, Ltd., its subcontractors, and/or their employees understand the risks associated with drilling an exploratory natural gas well, installing a pipeline, and constructing an access road. Ominex Canada, Ltd., its subcontractors, and their employees assume these risks as occupational hazards. This project will not add to the human health and safety risks that are currently found in this area.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The project will not add to the health or human safety risks found in this area. Ominex Canada, Ltd. will not assume any occupational hazards by not drilling the natural gas well, installing a pipeline, and constructing an access road into the well site on this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>

<p>15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> Drilling an exploratory natural gas well, installing a pipeline, and constructing an access road will add to the industrial activity to this tract of state land. Currently there are two natural gas wells approved for drilling on this section of land. Drilling an additional gas well, will add to the existing industrial activity on this tract. If Ominex Canada, Ltd. is successful in drilling a producing natural gas well, the School Trust Fund of Montana will generate additional revenue through royalties from the sale of natural gas. The forage production for wildlife habitat and erosion control on the Conservation Reserve Program acreage will be temporarily reduced. However, after the reclamation process is completed, forage production on this tract of CRP land will be enhanced in those areas. In the long run, the reclamation plan to seed crested wheatgrass and alfalfa back into the disturbed areas will increase the long-term forage productivity and enhance erosion control on these soils.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The industrial, commercial, and agricultural activities that currently exist on this tract of state land will not be altered. There will be no additional revenue generated in royalties to the School Trust Fund of Montana or for Ominex Canada, Ltd. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>
<p>16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> This project will not move or eliminate jobs within the surrounding area. The project will provide Ominex Canada, Ltd. employees and/or subcontractors with additional work. The well pad will have to be constructed, the well drilled, and the pipeline installed, if the well is capable of commercial production.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The quality and distribution of employment will not be impacted in this area. Ominex Canada, Ltd. is scheduled to drill several natural gas wells this summer and if they are denied permission to drill this well, they will simply move to the next well on their list. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>

<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> This project may create additional tax revenue in Blaine County, if the well is capable of commercial production. The project will also have an increase on the local and state tax base, only if the well is capable of commercial production. The natural gas will be sold on the open market and royalties from the sale of the natural gas will be given to the State of Montana and Ominex Canada, Ltd.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The local and state tax base will remain the same. Tax revenue will not be impacted in Blaine County by not drilling this natural gas well. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</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><b>Action Alternative:</b> The project will create some substantial traffic during the initial phases of drilling the natural gas well, installing a pipeline, and constructing an access road. Ominex Canada, Ltd. has been informed, as to where the access road into the well site will be placed. There is an existing two-track trail that almost ties into the proposed drill pad area. The project will not create a demand for government services. The project will not require the services of fire protection, police, and/or schools.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> There will be no additional demand for government services on this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</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><b>Action Alternative:</b> The project will not interfere with any other locally adopted environmental plans or goals that the Montana DNRC has for this tract of state land. No zoning plans will be in effect for the construction of the natural gas well, pipeline, or access road. The Montana DNRC will continue to explore and develop natural gas facilities on lands in which, the State of Montana owns the mineral rights. Environmental Assessment Checklist's will continue to be the basis of conclusion for future development or further study of projects such as this.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> There are no other known locally adopted environmental plans or goals for this tract of state land. The Montana DNRC will continue to work with natural gas companies to explore and develop natural gas production on tracts of land in which the State of Montana owns the mineral rights. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</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><b>Action Alternative:</b> The proposed natural gas well is not located on a legally accessible tract of state land. The State of Montana owns the surface on this tract of land, but the surrounding lands are owned by the federal government or other private entities. Any person wishing to recreate on this tract of state land must have the surrounding private landowners' permission to do so. The proposed project area is not accessible to the public for recreational purposes. This tract of land does have recreational potential for hunting, hiking, and bird watching. The main recreational activities that occur here are hunting and hiking. The natural gas well, pipeline, and access road will have a minimal impact on the recreational activities that may occur on this tract of state land in the future.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> This tract of state land is not legally accessible to the public for recreational purposes. The recreational potential for this tract of land will continue to be low to moderate. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>

<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The project will not add to the population or require additional housing. The density and distribution of population and housing will continue to be low in this rural area. The project will be completed in two to three days and the drill crew will leave the site. If the natural gas well is capable of commercial production, Ominex will have to bury a pipeline across this tract of state land to transport the natural gas. This activity may require the presence of Ominex employees for an additional day or two.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The density and distribution of population and housing will continue to be low in this rural ranching and farming community. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or community's possible?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The project will not disrupt any native or traditional lifestyles that currently exist in this area. Drilling an exploratory natural gas well, installing a pipeline, and constructing and access road will not change the social structures and mores found in this area. Natural gas exploration, development, and production are becoming somewhat high in this area.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The native and traditional lifestyles will not be impacted in this rural ranching and farming community. The social structures and mores found in this area will continue to remain the same. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>

<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> The proposed natural gas well, pipeline, and access road will not cause a shift in any of the unique qualities found in this area. No cultural artifacts or surface features were observed or noted in the area of disturbance. Natural gas production is important to the people in this area, because it provides jobs and additional income for the people that have mineral rights on their own land.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The cultural uniqueness and diversity of this area will remain the same. This tract of state land will continue to be used for wildlife habitat and erosion control as Conservation Reserve Program acreage, until the CRP contract expires. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p><b>Action Alternative:</b> This project will generate additional revenue for the State of Montana, School Trust Fund and Ominex Canada, Ltd., if the well is capable of commercial production. The surrounding communities will benefit from projects such as this through lodging, gas, and food purchased by the drilling crew and Ominex employees. The people in the surrounding community may be more willing to explore for natural gas on their own lands, if they see that these natural gas companies take care of the land and are honest and up front with the people they deal with.</p> <p><b>No Action Alternative:</b> The potential for additional revenue to the State of Montana, Ominex Canada, Ltd., and the people in the surrounding area will be lost. The Montana DNRC will not issue Ominex Canada, Ltd. a permit to drill an exploratory natural gas well and construct an access road on this tract of state land. There are no other appropriate social and/or economic circumstances to discuss within this Environmental Assessment Checklist.</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_

Dan Dobler

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Havre Unit Manager

Title



Signature



Date

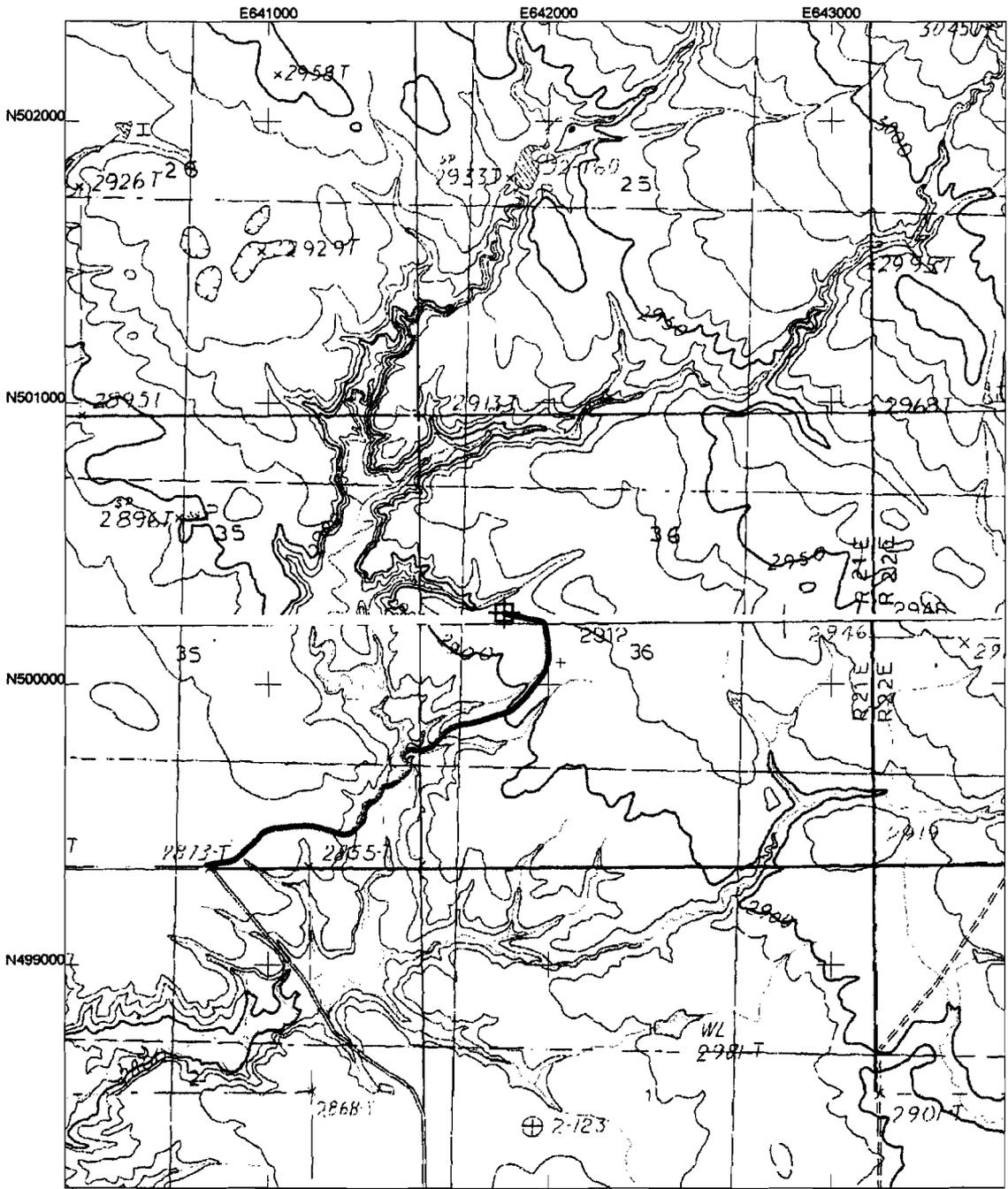
IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:  <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By: Clive Rooney  
Name

Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office  
Title

  
Signature

6-15-4  
Date



**Ominex Canada Ltd. - State #5-36 Well (SESWNW)**

US State Plane 1983  
 Montana 2500  
 NAD 1983 (Conus)



Scale 1:24,000



D-STATE 5-36 SESWNW.cpr

6/4/2004

GPS Pathfinder® Office

