

DS-252

# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Seismic Permit #1430	Proposed Implementation Date: September 10, 2004.
Proponent: Devon Louisiana Corporation/Tesla Exploration	
Type and Purpose of Action: To perform seismic exploration for natural gas development.	
Location: N1/2, SW1/4, Sec. 16, & NW1/4SE1/4, Sec. 21, & NW1/4NE1/4, Sec. 28, T27N, R17E.	County: Chouteau.

**RECEIVED**

SEP 28 2004

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT		LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Tesla Exploration, Scott Lindenmuth, Devon Louisiana Corporation, MT. DNRC, Cowen & Son Corp. State Lessee of State Lease #4892, James A. Henderson, State Lessee of State Lease #10246.	
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	Mt. Board of Oil & Gas.	
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	The "No Action" alternative. The alternative to allow for seismic exploration of these tracts.	

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geological features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	[N] Silty soils are present. There are no unusual geologic features. There are no special reclamation considerations.

**IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

<p>5. <b>WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:</b> 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>[N] There is no potential for water degradation from this proposed project.</p>
<p>6. <b>AIR QUALITY:</b> Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p>[N] Pollutants and particulates will not be produced.</p>
<p>7. <b>VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:</b> Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>[N] There are no rare plants or cover types present. Vegetative communities will not be altered.</p>
<p>8. <b>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:</b> Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>[N] There is some use by local wildlife, but it is not substantial.</p>
<p>9. <b>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</b> Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?</p>	<p>[N] There are no species of concern that utilize this area that I am aware of.</p>
<p>10. <b>HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:</b> Are any historical, archeological, or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] There are no historical, paleontological or archaeological resources present.</p>
<p>11. <b>AESTHETICS:</b> Is the project on a prominent topographical feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p>[N] This project will not be visible from populated areas.</p>
<p>12. <b>DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:</b> Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?</p>	<p>[N] None.</p>

**IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N] None.
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**III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION**

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risk in the area?	[N] Human health and safety will not be affected.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] Natural gas production could be benefited from this project.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N] New jobs will not be created.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N] This particular phase of gas production will not create tax revenues.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?	[N] Other services will not be required.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] None.
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?	[Y] There are some recreational opportunities for hunting within these tracts.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require	[N] Additional housing will not be required.

### III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

additional housing?	
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] Disruption is not likely.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] There should be no shift.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:	[N] None.

EA Checklist Prepared By:

BARNY D. SMITH, Lewistown Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office

  
Signature

Date: September 2, 2004

### IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	The alternative to allow for seismic exploration of these tracts.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Minimal negative impacts are expected if the special stipulations are followed.
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, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office

  
Signature

Date: 9/7/04