

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FOR:
CONNIE
DARUK

Project Name: Air Injection Pipeline

Proposed Implementation Date: Fall 2004

Proponent: Encore Operating

Type and Purpose of Action: Access and construct an air injection pipeline to better recover natural gas.

Location: N2 Sect. 16 T7N R60E

County: Fallon

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Encore Operating is wanting to install an air injection pipeline to better recover natural gas from its Baker fields. RECEIVED
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	Board of Oil & Gas NOV 24 2004 LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Allow Encore Operating to construct pipeline. Deny permission to allow Encore Operating to construct pipeline.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
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?	[Y] Disturbance will occur and will be permanent if oil is discovered, if not areas will be reclaimed to a more natural state. Action: The implementation of this action can be done in a manner that minimizes the damages to the land. No Action: Implementation of the no action will not effect soils.

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>[N] Water resources are at least one-quarter mile from project.</p> <p>Action: Using mitigation measures to relocate the project will minimize the disturbance of the ephemeral draws. The relocation will limit the crossings to areas where ephemeral draws are not as wide, and to areas where significant disturbance has already taken place.</p> <p>No Action: No effect on these resources.</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>[N]</p> <p>Action: Pollutants and air particulates will be increased by the project. Dirt particles as well as pollutant air particles will increase during the construction stage. After construction, the air born particles will return to their normal state.</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>[N] The area where this project is proposed is presently in native vegetation. The primary grass species is western wheatgrass, blue grama, and needle & thread grass. On the date of the site inspection, no rare plants were observed.</p> <p>Action: The proposed route will have impacts on the draw and woody species. Route should be altered to avoid the disturbance of these areas when possible, and routed in a manner as to minimize the disturbance when crossing is unavoidable.</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</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] The area where the project is proposed has no documented use of important wildlife, birds or fish. Crucial wintering grounds for wildlife and birds are found in the hardwood draws within the project area.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	<p>Action: Disturbance will take place in the fall of the year, prior to freeze up and more concentrated use by wildlife and birds.</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</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] Numerous species of concern are listed for this area. The project is small in scope and will not effect these species.</p> <p>Action: No effect.</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</p>
<p>10.HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] Eastern Land Office Staff did the on-site inspection and conferred with DNRC State Archeologist felt the project would not impact cultural resources.</p> <p>Action: If cultural sites within the project corridor are impacted. Alternatives will be assessed and a reroute may take place.</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</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] This area is accessible to the public. Intense gas & oil activity is taking place in the area.</p> <p>Action: The installation of the project will be visible during the construction stage. After construction the project will be noticeable, but it won't be the only site in the area.</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</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> <p>Action: The action alternative will increase gas production.</p> <p>No Action: The gas output will not be increased.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES: (Y/N)
<p>14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>[N] Action: The installation of the project and its maintenance will increase the health and safety risks for the people using the area. No Action: No additional risk will occur.</p>
<p>15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>[N] The area is primarily grazing and farm land, the proposed project will temporarily disrupt some of those activities, but livestock and wildlife have proven to co-exist with this development and things return to normal in a short period of time. Action: The implantation of the action alternative will have a positive effect on the industrial and commercial oil industries. The project will also influence local contracts. No Action: The no action alternative will negatively effect the commercial industries. Potential available resources will not be developed to their fullest potential.</p>
<p>16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>[N] Action: The project has the potential to create jobs with further development. No Action: Potential jobs will not be created.</p>

<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>[N] Action: The action alternative will increase revenue to the trust. The School Trust will receive royalties from development and license fees during project construction. No Action: No additional tax revenues will be created by the no action alternative.</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>[N] Action: Oil and gas development has already greatly increased traffic demands. This project will not add to that demand. No Action: No effect.</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>[N] Action: The action alternative will not effect State, County, City, USFS, BLM or Tribal management plans. No Action: No effect.</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>[N] Action: No impacts. No Action: No effect.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>[N] Action: Additional housing will not be added by this project, nor will there be a density or distribution change in the local population. No Action: No effect.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>[N] Action: Native or traditional lifestyles will not be effected. No Action: No effect.</p>

<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>[N] Action: A shift in the unique quality of this area is not anticipated by the implementation of the proposed project. No Action: No effect.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p>[N] Action: NONE No Action: NONE</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By: *Marek D. Procyk* *11/8/04*
NAME DATE

<p>IV. FINDING</p>	
<p>25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:</p>	<p>Allow Encore Operating to construct pipeline.</p>
<p>26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:</p>	<p>NONE</p>
<p>27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis</p>	

EA Checklist Approved By: Name Title Date
Rich Strohmayer / GEO Area Manager *11-9-04*