

FOR:
CONNIE
DARUK

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Installation of a Natural Gas Pipeline. Proposed Implementation Date: Spring 2006

Proponent: Bear Paw Energy, LLC

Type and Purpose of Action: Install a natural gas pipeline across state land to facilitate an efficient method of transporting natural gas to end users.

Location: T22N R59E 36 & T23N R57E 36 County: Richland County

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	None RECEIVED MAR 08 2006 LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Allow Bear Paw Energy, LLC to install a natural gas pipeline across State Land. Deny permission for Bear Paw Energy, LLC to install a natural gas pipeline across State Land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] 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?	[Y] Disturbance will occur along the area where the pipeline route is proposed. Action: Mitigation measures will be implemented that minimize soil disturbance. A field review showed no signs of fragile, compactible, or unstable soils. With the relatively small scale of the proposed project no impacts are anticipated. No Action: Implementation of the no action alternative will not effect the 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] The installation of the proposed action will not effect any surface or ground water resources.</p> <p>Action: No effect.</p> <p>No Action: No effect on the resource.</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 particulates will be produced at the time of installation. After installation is complete pollutant and particulate levels will return to normal. With the relatively small scale of the proposed project no impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>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 the project is proposed is presently in native range. The primary grass species are western wheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, green needlegrass, and needle & thread grass. An on site inspection reveled no evidence of any rare plant species within the proposed project area.</p> <p>Action: Impacts to the vegetative community will occur within the proposed action location. Due to the limited scope of the proposed project, permanent impacts to the vegetative community are not anticipated</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] No wildlife were seen at the time of the field inspection, however the area is known to be deer, antelope, and turkey habitat.</p> <p>Action: The limited scope of the project will be such that impacts to fawning and nesting activities will be limited.</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<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] The habitat available on this section is conducive to several species of concern (sage grouse, prairie dogs, etc.). An on site inspection of the proposed action area revealed no evidence of any federally listed threatened, endangered, sensitive, or species of concern. Due to the limited scope of the proposed action, no impacts to federally listed threatened, endangered, sensitive, or species of concern are anticipated.</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 inspected the area of potential effect for the natural gas pipeline route, and identified no cultural or paleontologic resources.</p> <p>Action: If cultural sites within the project area are impacted, alternatives will be assessed and mitigation measures will be taken.</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] With the rural aspects of this part Richland County and the predominant enterprise of livestock grazing and farming in the area the visual impacts will not be significant.</p> <p>Action: No visual impacts are anticipated from the proposed action.</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 proposed action will not use resources that are limited in the area. Livestock grazing and dryland farming are the only other activities in the area.</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</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?	[N] None.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES: (Y/N)
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N] Action: This section lies in a very rural portion of Richland County, with very low human population. The nature of the proposed action will not add any risks to the human environment. No Action: No effect.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N] The current activities in the area are grazing, farming, and oil production. Action: The implementation of the action will enhance the activity of oil production. The action is not anticipated to effect the other activities in the area. No Action: No effect.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N]Action: The action will provide short-term employment during installation. No Action: Potential short-term employment will not be created.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N] Action: The proposed action will not create or eliminate tax revenue. No Action: No effect.

<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: During installation, more traffic will be added to the area roads. After installation, traffic levels will return to normal. The action will not add to the demand for government services. 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: The proposed action will not affect the access to any potential recreational areas on this tract. 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 action, 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 action. No Action: No effect.</p>

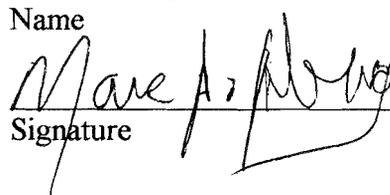
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p>[N] Action: None No Action: None</p>
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EA Checklist Prepared By: Jason Crowder Land Use Specialist
Name Title

 2-16-06
Signature Date

<p>IV. FINDING</p>	
<p>25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:</p>	<p>Allow Bear Paw Energy, LLC to install a natural gas pipeline across State Land.</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: Marc Aberg Land Use Program Manager
Name Title

 2/16/2006
Signature Date