DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Natural Gas Pipeline	Proposed Implementation Date: February 15, 2006
Proponent: Bear Paw Energy	
Type and Purpose of Action: The proponent has requested to install a 4" poly natural gas pipeline,	
Location:E2 S36 T28N R58E	County: Roosevelt

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Bear Paw Energy submitted a Land Use License application to the MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Trust Land Division (TLMD) Glasgow Unit Office (GUO).
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	DNRC Trust Land Division has full authority to approve or deny this proposed project.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	**Action Alternative:** Allow the proponent to install a 4" poly natural gas pipeline. Mitigation measures will be used to minimize impacts to the environment surrounding the proposed project area. **NO Action Alternative:** Deny the proponent permission to install a 4" poly natural gas pipeline.

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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?	The land where the gas pipeline is to be installed is agriculture land. The topsoil has been disturbed by agriculture activities. **Action Alternative:** A trench approximately 3-feet wide and 7-feet deep will be dug to place the pipe in. The soil from the trench will be temporarily place beside the trench. The topsoil horizon will be salvaged separately from the subsoil horizons. The topsoil will be evenly distributed across the disturbed area once the subsoil has been properly compacted. **NO Action Alternative:** The soils will not be effected by this action.
5.WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of	No surface or groundwater resources are present. **Action Alternative:** This project will not affect the

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?	surface water quantity or quality in the area. **NO Action Alternative:** Water quality and quantity will not be affected in this area by implementation of the no action.
6.AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	**Action Alternative:** During the construction phase of this project, some airborne dust particles will be created. The dust will be temporary and localized. **NO Action Alternative:** Air quality will not be affected.
7.VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	**Action Alternative:** The proposed pipelines will cross small grain lands. Ultimately, it is anticipated that cropland production is decreased for the width of the corridor. **NO Action Alternative:** Vegetation in this area will not be affected by implementation of this action.
8.TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	**Action Alternative:** The proposed project will not affect the terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats in the area. **NO Action Alternative:** Wildlife habitats will not be affected.
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:** DNRC personnel surveyed the proposed project site and did not observe any Unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources in this area. **NO Action Alternative:** No resources in the area will be affected.
10.HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	**Action Alternative:** DNRC personnel surveyed the proposed project area and did not observe any historic or archaeological sites. **NO Action Alternative:** Cultural sites will not be affected.
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?	**Action Alternative:** The aesthetics of this area will be temporarily altered. During the trenching process of the proposed project, piles of dirt will be visible. Upon completion of this project, the project area will be noticeable until the vegetation has a chance to grow back. **NO Action Alternative:** The aesthetics of this area will not be altered.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
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?	**Action Alternative:** No demands on environmental resources will occur. **NO Action Alternative:** No resources will be affected.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	**Action Alternative:** There is no State surface lease present for the lands where this action is being proposed. DNRC staff did not observe any damages to surface improvements for these lands. **NO Action Alternative:** There will be no impact to the DNRC surface lease.

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?	**Action Alternative:** There will be some health and safety concerns during the construction of this proposed project. Workers are aware of any health and safety hazards and recognize them as occupational hazards. Once the construction has been completed, there will be no health and safety concerns associated with this project. **NO Action Alternative:** There will be no health and safety concerns in this area.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	**Action Alternative:** The proposed gas pipeline will be connected to an existing oil well. The gas that is transported through the pipeline will add to the commercial activities in the area. **NO Action Alternative:** Commercial gas activities and production in this area will not be increased.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	**Action Alternative:** This proposed project would help secure continued employment for workers employed by the gas company. Employees of other companies associated with the construction and maintenance of the pipelines will also benefit from the installation of these pipelines. **NO Action Alternative:** The quantity and distribution of employment in this area will not be affected.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	**Action Alternative:** State and local tax revenue will increased due to the sale of gas transported by the proposed pipeline. In addition, employment security for employees that work for companies associated with this project and the gas industry will help the state and local tax base. School Trust revenues will

Craig Biggart, Land Use Specialist

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	N.S. I
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: [ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By _____ Date: February 8, 2006

~~R. Hoyt Richards, Glasgow Unit Manager~~
Clive Rooney