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DNRC - Trust Land Management Division

APR 28 2006

D.N.R.C.

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Natural gas pipeline.	Proposed Implementation Date: Pending
Proponent: Bear Paw Energy LLC, 1400-16 th Street, Suite 310, Denver, Colorado, 80202	
Type and Purpose of Action: Bear Paw Energy LLC has made a Land Use License application to place a 4 inch poly natural gas pipeline on State land. The gas pipeline will start at Kodiak State 8-16 well located on land owned by the State of Montana and extend southwesterly to the quarter section line where it will leave State land and cross onto land in which the surface is privately owned. The pipeline will extend to the section line between section 16 & 21 and connect to an existing natural gas pipeline.	
Location: E2NE4, Sec. 16 Twp. 34N Rge. 57E	County: Sheridan

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 LLC has made a Land Use License application to place a 4-inch poly pipeline on State land. Bear Paw Energy LLC has contacted the surface owner concerning the gas line project.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The other government agencies with jurisdiction for this project are the Montana Board of Oil and Gas, Billings Office.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant permission to the proponent to install a 4-inch natural gas pipeline on State land. No Action Alternative: Deny permission to the proponent to install a 4-inch natural gas pipeline on State land.

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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?	Action Alternative: This type of project will impact the soils on the gas pipeline route. The impacts will be minimal and the soils along the pipeline route will recover naturally. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the soils on the land under this alternative.
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?	Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts on the water quality, quantity and distribution associated with this tract of state land. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to water resources under this alternative.
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts on the air quality of the land involved with the project. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the air quality under this alternative.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	Action Alternative: The proposed pipeline will cross rangeland that consists mainly of tame grass and

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	<p>agricultural land. The vegetation within the rangeland will be disturbed. The vegetation on the sides of the trench will regenerate naturally. The proponent will be required to reseed the trench area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the vegetation under this alternative.</p>
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	<p>Action Alternative: This type of activity will disturb the habitat types on the State land. The area of impact is small in scope and there will be minimal impacts to the wildlife and upland bird resources of the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the wildlife habitat resources associated with the land under this alternative.</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>Action Alternative: The project area contains no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the environmental resources under this alternative.</p>
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	<p>Action Alternative: There are no known historical or archaeological sites on the areas to be impacted by this project. The state land was inspected by personnel from the DNRC and it was determined that the area of impact contained no known historical or archaeological sites.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to historical or archaeological sites under this alternative.</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>Action Alternative: The project site is located in a rural area and is visible to the general public. The project will have no impacts to the aesthetic values associated with the state land involved with this project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the aesthetics associated with the land under this project.</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>Action Alternative: The project will place no demands on environmental resources of land, water, air or energy.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the environmental resources of land, water, air or energy under this alternative.</p>
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	<p>Action Alternative: The pipeline installation will not impact other projects or plans that may be occurring on the state land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the plans, studies or other projects on the land under this alternative.</p>

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: The pipeline installation has various human health and safety risks. The employer and employee identify the health and safety risks as occupational hazards.

	No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to human health or safety under this alternative.
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 pipeline. The gas that is transported through the pipeline will add to the commercial activities in the area. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the agricultural activities under this alternative.
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 proponent. Employees of other companies associated with the construction and maintenance of the pipeline will also benefit from the installation of the pipeline. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the quantity and distribution of employment under this alternative.
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 increase 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. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the local and state tax base under this alternative.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	Action Alternative: The project will place no demands for government services. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts for government services under this alternative.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	Action Alternative: The project will not impact locally adopted environmental plans and goals. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to locally adopted environmental plans and goals under this alternative.
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?	Action Alternative: The project will not impact the hunting recreational values associated with the land. No Action Alternative; There would be no impacts to the hunting recreational values associated with the land under this alternative.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	Action Alternative: The project will not impact the density and distribution of the population and housing on this rural area. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the density and distribution of the population and housing under this alternative.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	Action Alternative: The project will not impact the social structures of the local communities. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the social structures under this alternative.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	Action Alternative: The project will not impact the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the land. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the cultural uniqueness and diversity under this alternative.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	Action Alternative: The project provides some economic benefit to the local community businesses that supply products to the company that will be

	installing the natural gas pipeline. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the social and economic circumstances under this alternative.
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EA Checklist Prepared By: Craig Biggart 4/17/06 Date: _____
 Craig Biggart Land Use Specialist

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action Alternative: Grant a Land Use License to Bear Paw Energy LLC to install a 4 inch natural gas pipeline on this tract of State land.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	The project will have no significant impacts to the natural resources on the State land.
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:

Name _____ Title _____
Heyt Richards
 Signature

Date: 4-17-06