

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: R/W Easement.	Proposed Implementation Date: April 17, 2006.
Proponent: Three Rivers Communications.	
Type and Purpose of Action: Easement for a buried fiber optic cable, 20 foot wide. Work Order #73506001.	
Location: NW1/4NW1/4, NE1/4NW1/4, SW1/4NE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4, Sec. 31, T17N, R11E.	County: Judith Basin.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Mt. DNRC, Three Rivers Communications, Dick Kornick & Larry Meyer, Surprise Creek Colony, Darius Walter, Surface Lessee. RECEIVED
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None. MAY 04 2006 LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	The "No Action" alternative. The alternative to issue the Right-of-Way Easement.

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 present.
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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] There is no chance of water degradation with this project.</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] Pollutants and particulates will not be produced.</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 cable laying method will not permanently alter the vegetation. There are no rare plants or cover types present.</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] Wildlife use is not substantial.</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] There are no species of special concern. There are no wetlands in the area.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archeological, or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] There are no historical, paleontological or archaeological resources present.</p>
<p>11. AESTHETICS: 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>[Y] It will be visible from the highway.</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] Limited resources will not be used for this project.</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

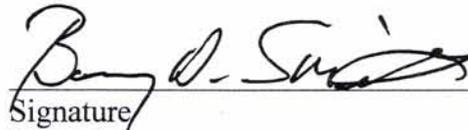
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risk in the area?	[N] This project will only make human health and safety better through improved communications.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] This project will add to commercial and agricultural activities via improved communications.
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] Taxes will not be affected.
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 needed.
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?	[N] There is little recreational opportunity here.
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:

IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	The alternative to issue the Right-of-Way Easement.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	There should be no negative impacts with this project.
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:

3/22/06