

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Hydrometrics Monitoring Well Project LUL
Proposed Implementation Date:	2010
Proponent:	Hydrometrics
Location:	T3S-R44E-Sec 36, T3S-R45E-Sec 36, T4S-R45E-Sec 16&36
County:	Powder River and Rosebud

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Hydrometrics plans to construct 4 aquifer monitoring well sites on the State Trust Land parcels listed. The purposes of these wells are to monitor water quality and quantity within the aquifers. These wells will tap aquifers above within and below the coal seams.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

The proponent has filed an application for a land use license to install the proposed monitoring wells and batteries on the noted state parcels.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

None

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A: Allow Construction and operation of the monitoring wells
Alternative B: No Action

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

Alternative A: Very little disturbance should happen to the soils in this area during the construction of the project. Soils in the area are quite durable and should recover quickly from the disturbance. Soils in the area are a complex of shallow, silty and sandy soils.

Alternative B: No Impact

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

Alternative A: The construction and implantation of these monitoring wells may have an very minimal impact on water quantity. The amount of water extracted should be negligible

Alternative B: No Impact

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

Alternative A: Pollutant and Particulate levels may be increased during the construction of the project; these levels should be minimal and should return to normal levels after the completion of the construction phase project.

Alternative B: No Impact

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

Alternative A: Some vegetation may be effected through this project. Dominant species in the area are Western Wheatgrass (*agropyron smithii*), Green Needlegrass (*stipa viridula*), Bluebunch Wheatgrass (*agropyron spicatum*), Prairie Sandreed (*calamovilfa longifolia*), Little Bluestem (*schizachyrium scoparium*), Needle and Thread (*stipa comata*), Sandberg Bluegrass (*poa secunda*), Blue Grama (*bouteloua gracilis*), Prairie Junegrass (*Koleria Pyramidata*), Silver Sagebrush (*artemisia cana*) and Ponderosa Pine (*pinus ponderosa*).

Alternative B: No Impact

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

Alternative A: Construction of this project may disrupt wildlife activity in the area for a few days. Upon completion of the project the wildlife habitat should return to normal.

Alternative B: No Impact

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

Alternative A: A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Databases shows that there are no threatened or endangered species noted in the scope of this project.

Alternative B: No Impact

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

Alternative A: Upon inspection of the DNRC Eastern Land Office, no cultural, historical or paleontological sites were noted within the scope of the project.

Alternative B: No Impact

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

Alternative A: During construction of the project noise levels may be increased slightly but this will only last for a few days at each site

Alternative B: No Impact

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

Alternative A: No Significant Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

Alternative A: No Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i>• <i>Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i>

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Alternative A: There may be some risk involving worker safety during the construction of the project. The project will be constructed by trained professionals which should reduce the risk involved.

Alternative B: No Impact

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

Alternative A: The development of the water source should add to industrial and commercial activities and production. All should be impacted in a positive way.

Alternative B: No Impact

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

Alternative A: This project may have the potential to create both temporary and permanent positions.

Alternative B: No Impact

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

Alternative A: No Significant Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

Alternative A: No Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

Alternative A: No Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

Alternative A: No Significant Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

Alternative A: No Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Alternative A: No Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

Alternative A: No Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

Alternative A: Construction of this project would require the issuance of a Land Use License the price of which will be set at \$500.00

Alternative B: No Impact

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Scott Aye	Date: 12-3-2010
	Title: Land Use Specialist	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative A

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

Minimal

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS More Detailed EA No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Marc Aberg
	Title: Lands Program Manager
Signature: /s/ Marc A. Aberg	Date: 12-6-2010