To Whom It May Concern:

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has prepared the following environmental assessment as required by law in ARM 17.4.607(2) and ARM 17.4.609(2). This project involves installing (2) secondarily contained Ameron fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) underground piping runs at the Miller Oil facility located at 2006 US Highway 2, Culberston, MT, 59218.

The DEQ prepares environmental assessments to inform interested government agencies, public groups, or individuals of a proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human or natural environment. This environmental assessment will be circulated for seven days. After the seven-day comment period, DEQ will decide what action to take regarding this permit.

If you care to comment on this proposed project or the attached environmental assessment, please write or email the Permitting & Compliance Division. Comments must be in writing and must be received by July 28, 2011. Our email address is ustprogram@mt.gov and our mailing address is P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT, 59620-0901.

Sincerely,

Shasta Steinweden

Shasta Steinweden
Underground Storage Tank Section Environmental Specialist
Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau

enc: Environmental Assessment

O/O NAME: Miller Oil	FACILITY NO: 60-15191
PERMIT NO: 12-0008	DATE OF APPLICATION: July 6, 2011
PERSON PREPARING EA: Shasta Steinweden	COUNTY: Roosevelt
LOCATION: 2006 US Highway 2	
FACILITY NAME: Miller Oil	EA COMPLETED: July 14, 2011
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The purpose of this action is to install (2) secondairly contained Ameron fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) underground diesel piping runs. Pipe leak detection will be secondary containment monitoring with electronic line leak detection.	
DESCRIPTION OF THE BENEFITS AND PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: Purpose is to install a new piping connected to above ground tanks storing diesel fuel. The benefits include an out of town re-fueling facility for large numbers of diesel trucks. This re-fueling facility will decrease congestion in the town of Culbertson.	

A: Significant unavoidable impacts
B: Potential significant impacts mitigated based upon license conditions
C: Insignificant as proposed

				POTENTIAL IMPACTS		
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT						
1. TOPOGRAPHY: Are there unusual geologic features? Will the surface features be changed?			X			Location currently contains above ground storage tanks, located next to US Highway 2. The address is 2006 US Highway 2, Culbertson MT. There are no known or reported unusual geologic features. The piping will be buried underground while appurtenant equipment is above ground. General topography will not change; surface features will be constructed consistent with retail petroleum re-fueling facilities.
2. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there special reclamation considerations?			X			There are no known special reclamation considerations for the project site nor are any fragile or unstable soils identified to the reviewer.
3. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water		X				Important water resources are present. There are two public water supplies and distribution systems located within five mile of the proposed site. Clover Creek is located

				POTENTIAL IMPACTS		
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?						within .5 miles of the proposed site. Potential violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality is mitigated by secondarily contained non-corroding underground piping. Improper operation of this system would increase the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, and the degradation of water quality. Leak detection systems serve to mitigate the potential impacts immediately reducing the amount of fuel available for release to the environment.
4. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?			X			Petroleum vapors will be released at this site. Natural air currents, submerged fill pipe, and vent pipes will dissipate hydrocarbon vapors to a safe level. The closest Class I area airshed, Fort Peck Native American Reservation, is located 5 miles from the project site.
5. 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?			X			This project will not use existing environmental resources in the local area. There are no other nearby activities identified to the reviewer that may be impacted.

				POTENTIAL IMPACTS		
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
6. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?			X			There are no known other environmental studies or projects on this land.
7. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?			X			No known use of project site by important wildlife, birds or fish have been identified to the reviewer.
8. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?			X			A portion of the existing vegetative community will be altered at the pipe burial location; however no rare plants or cover types are reported to this reviewer.
9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Any species of special concern?		X				There is one federally listed threatened or endangered species listed for this township and range, Whooping Crane. The habitat for the Whooping Crane is Freshwater Marshes, which are not present at this site. There are no other identified habitats, or species of special concern is identified or reported to the reviewer within 2 miles of the project site. There are designated Palustrine Wetlands and Riparian Habitats within .5 miles of the project site.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE: Are any historical, archeological or paleontological resources present?			X			There are 4 listed historical structures located within Roosevelt County. There are no listed structures at the project site. There are no known archeological or paleontological resources reported to the reviewer.
11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographical			X			This proposal is aesthetically compatible

				POTENTIAL IMPACTS		
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise, light or odors?						with the current land use of the project site. Piping will be buried underground with appurtenant equipment above ground that will be visible but in keeping with the existing use of the property. Currently there are ASTs located on the property.
12. AGRICULTURE: Will grazing lands, irrigation waters or crop production be affected?			X			No known impacts. No agricultural lands are presently in use at project site.
HUMAN ENVIRONMENT						
1. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?			X			It is not anticipated that the project will disrupt native or traditional lifestyles or communities.
2. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?			X			It is not anticipated that the project will cause a shift in any unique quality of the area.
3. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?			X			It is not anticipated that the project will add to the population or require additional housing.
4. HUMAN HEALTH & SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?		X				It is anticipated that natural air currents and tank vents will dissipate the hydrocarbon vapors to a safe level. Leak detection equipment is designed to detect releases before serious health or safety problems occur. Improper operation of this system could impact human health and safety. Leak detection systems and operating requirements mitigate this potential impact by immediately reducing the amount of fuel

				POTENTIAL IMPACTS		
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						available to be released into the environment where it could impact health and human safety.
5. COMMUNITY & PERSONAL INCOME: Will the facility generate or degrade income?			X			The project result (new re-fueling facility) is anticipated to have the potential to generate community or personal income in the local area.
6. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimate jobs.			X			It is not anticipated that this project will create or eliminate jobs. However, the project result is reported to have the potential to create (1) full time position associated with the new re-fueling facility. During the construction of the facility there will be several jobs created.
7. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?			X			It is not anticipated that this project will add to the local or state tax base, However, it is anticipated that the re-fueling facility associated with this proposal will generate additional local and state tax revenue.
8. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?			X			It is anticipated that the result of the proposed project will add to the local traffic flow along US Highway 2. Other required services will be minimally impacted as a result of this project.

				POTENTIAL IMPACTS		
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	AMPLIFICATION
9. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?			X			No significant impacts to adjacent commercial or agricultural activities are anticipated that are related to this project.
10. 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?			X			Designated USFS recreational property is located within 41 miles of the project area, but is not accessed through the project location. It is not anticipated that this project site has recreational potential.
11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographical feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise, light or odors?			X			Piping runs are to be buried underground. It is not anticipated that this project will change the aesthetics of the area that currently holds ASTs.
12. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there state, county, city, USFS, BLM, tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?			X			There are no known county, tribal, USFS or BLM environmental management plans that would impact this project development. The proposed project and associated development is expected to be in conformance with current Roosevelt County zoning requirements.
13. TRANSPORTATION: Will the project affect local transportation networks and traffic flow?			X			This project is expected to minimally affect immediately adjacent local transportation network.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: The department has attempted to identify interested parties to this application and provide the opportunity for public comment. A copy of this Environmental Assessment of the proposed underground storage tank installation has also been posted at our website (http://www.deq.state.mt.us/ea.asp). Substantive comment may also be provided to email address at ustprogram@mt.gov

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: No other alternatives were presented or considered.

COMPLIANCE STATUS: This project, as permitted, will be in compliance with the UST regulations. The facility must, however, be operated and maintained in accordance with the UST rules and regulations. This facility is required to have a compliance inspection done within 120 days of the installation of the tank systems.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PREPARATION OF AN EIS: Not necessary at this time based upon the information reviewed. The project, as proposed with mandatory operating and permit conditions, will not have a significant environmental impact.

OTHER GROUPS OR AGENCIES CONTACTED OR WHICH MAY HAVE OVERLAPPING JURISDICTION: The Montana Department of Justice, Fire Prevention and Investigation Bureau regulates aboveground components.

INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS EA: The owner, the contractor, and the preparer of the EA.

PERMIT CONDITION EFFECTS: Permit conditions are based on Montana and federal regulations, PEI RP100-2000 and accepted standard engineering practices.

cc: Governor's Office
Legislative Environmental Policy Office

Tank Location
(Detail)