

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	CHS Pipeline Replacement and Reroute Land Use License and Easement
Proposed Implementation Date:	2011
Proponent:	Cenex Harvest States Pipeline LLC
Location:	T11N-R49E-Sec 36 T11N-R50E-Sec 16
County:	Prairie County

Definitions

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

CHS Pipeline (henceforth referred to as Cenex) has requested a right of way easement and Land Use License to cross state owned T11N-R49E-Sec 36 and T11N-R50E-Sec 16 with a 10" Liquid Petroleum Pipeline. This pipeline crossing is part of an extensive interstate pipeline project. The distance of the proposed crossings would be 4713.56 feet X 30 feet in width, and would encompass a right of way area of 3.246 acres. The purpose of this project is to replace reroute and improve service of the existing CHS pipeline.

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 Eastern Land Office staff has been working with land agents for CHS to determine the best routing of said pipeline. Due to the small scope of this project no public comment was sought.

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

None

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A- Grant right of way easement and Land Use License to Cenex for the purpose of installing operating and maintaining a 10" liquid petroleum pipeline.

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- Soil structures on the site range from sandy to clay loams with small pockets of gravel. The soils in the project area are relatively stable. Minimal erosion is expected.

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- Minimal impact to water quality, quantity and distribution could be expected. All construction methods will be done in a way to minimize impacts to both ground and surface water sources.

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- Construction could be expected to temporarily impact local ambient air-quality. This impact would be produced through fugitive dust as well as emission from construction equipment. This temporary localized impact should only take place on this tract of trust land during clearing, construction and restoration processes. Impact from construction would be temporary and should not result in significant impacts in air quality.

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- Potential disruption to the vegetative community within the area of construction could be expected. This disruption would come in the action of clearing and construction. Current plant species which occupy the construction area include Western Wheatgrass (*Agropyron Smithii*), Green Needlegrass (*Stipa Viridula*), Blue Bunch Wheatgrass (*Agropyron Spicatum*), Prairie Sandreed (*Calamovilfa longifolia*), Needle and Thread (*Stipa comata*), Prairie Junegrass (*Koleria pyramidata*), Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), Sandberg Bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), Silver Sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*), Fringed Sagewort (*Artemisia frigida*), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), Downy Brome (*Bromus tectorum*) and Japanese Brome (*Bromus japonicus*). Construction areas will have stored topsoil replaced, contoured and reseeded to a native seeding mixture. The ELO field staff will choose the native seed mixture and seeding rate on this site. The ELO field staff will also monitor the restoration outcomes to assure proper vegetative reestablishment. Cenex will be required through the terms of the LUL and easement to monitor and control any noxious weed infestations within the project area.

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- This project may disrupt wildlife habitat for a number of species. Species which may have habitat in the area of the project may include deer, antelope, rodents, coyotes, foxes, rodents, amphibians, raptors, migratory and prairie birds. The majority of disruption would occur during the construction and reclamation phases of the project. Upon project completion habitats and wildlife utilization should return to normal levels.

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- No sensitive or T&E species or habitat was noted within the scope of the project area.

Alternative B- No Impact

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

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

Alternative A- An old cabin/homestead is noted on T11N-R49E-Sec 36 but this does not lay within the project boundary and should not be affected by construction. Should any such resources be discovered during the construction of this project plans are in place to immediately notify both the DNRC Staff Archeologist and the State Historical Preservation Officer.

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- Alteration of the viewshed may occur during the clearing, construction and restoration activities. Construction is not planned on any prominent topographical features. Construction activities will leave a scar on the vegetative community which should recover fully after restoration is complete. No above ground structures are included within the easement request.

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 limited natural resources should be required in addition to that which is stated within the proposed easement.

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.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *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.

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Alternative A- There may be potential health and safety risks associated with this project. These risks can be mitigated with proper training and on site safety protocols.

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- This proposed project should have a long term positive effect on industrial and commercial activities through increasing transportation capabilities for domestically produced liquid petroleum. This project may have a short term negative effect on agricultural activities and production. These negative effects should only last through the construction and restoration phases of the proposed project.

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 has the potential to create jobs with further development possibilities. The expected maximum workforce is unknown at this time.

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- This project is expected to increase tax revenue throughout the length of pipeline. The amount of increase is unknown at this time

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- Traffic levels could increase substantially during the construction phase of this project.. This increase should only be short term and temporary.

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- There is no noted adopted environmental plans or goals within the boundary of the easement requested.

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- This proposed project and easement request should have only a minimal effect on access to recreational and wilderness activities. These opportunities may be disrupted during construction and restoration phases of the project. These phases will be short term in nature and should have no lasting effect on recreational activities.

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 significant impact expected.

Alternative B- No Impact

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Alternative A- This project has the potential to have a minimal and temporary disruption of native or traditional lifestyles. This disruption should cease once the construction and reclamation phases are completed.

Alternative B- No Impact

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

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

Alternative A- No Significant 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- This project would require the purchase of a right of way easement across this tract of Trust Land. The price per acre of this easement would be set at \$400. The total easement revenue to the trust would be \$1298.40. The LUL price will be set at \$175.00 per tract for a total of \$350.00

Alternative B- Additional revenue to the trust through the sale of a right of way easement or Land Use License would not be realized.

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V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative A

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

The granting of the requested right of way easement across state owned trust lands for the proposed Cenex Pipeline Project should not result in nor cause significant environmental impacts. The predicted environmental impacts have been identified and mitigation measures addressed in the environmental assessment checklist. The predicted impacts will be adequately mitigated through the construction and reclamation plans. The proposed action satisfies the trusts fiduciary mandate and ensures the long term productivity of the land. An environmental assessment checklist is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS
 More Detailed EA
 No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Marc Aberg
	Title: Eastern Land Office; Land Program Manager
Signature: /S/ Marc A. Aberg	Date: 8-23-11