

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	NorVal Utility Easement
Proposed Implementation Date:	Winter 2012
Proponent:	NorVal Electrical Cooperative, Inc.
Location:	Missouri River
County:	Valley and McCone

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

NorVal Electrical Cooperative proposes to install two new 3 phase underground power lines across the Missouri River downstream of Fort Peck Dam for the purpose of improving local electrical service. The two new power lines will be directionally bored 50' below the bed of the river. Two existing overhead power lines will be removed.

Power line 1 is proposed for installation starting on private land beyond the north bank of the river crossing state land all within Lot 7, Section 34, Township 27E, Range 41E traveling 374' below the river bed and exiting beyond the south river bank..

Power line 2 is proposed for installation starting on private land beyond the north bank of the river crossing state land all within Lot 2, Section 34, Township 27E, Range 41E traveling 1,176' below the river bed and exiting beyond the south river bank.,

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

NorVal has completed the joint application for proposed work in Montana's streams, wetlands, floodplains and other water bodies. Notice through the joint application forms is provided to Valley and McCone County Conservation Districts, DFWP, local floodplain administrator, USCOE, and MDEQ.

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

Valley and McCone County 310 permit
COE 404 permit

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Replacing the overhead power lines was considered but rejected due to the long spans needed to cross the river and need to install and service power poles on Duck and Boy Scout Islands.

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.

None

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.

The entire area of disturbance of state land is 50' below the bed of the Missouri River, no impact to water quality is anticipated.

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.

None

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.

There is no surface disturbance of state land.

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.

Wildlife habitat will not be disturbed by the project.

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.

The entire area of disturbance of state land is 50' below the bed of the Missouri River, no impact to any surface species or habitat is expected.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

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

The area of disturbance is 50' below the bed of Missouri river; as a result no historical resources are present. The directional bore would disturb any paleontological located within the path of three two inch plastic pipes installed to contain the electrical cables.

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.

Installations of the two underground power lines will replace two existing overhead power lines resulting in improved are aesthetics.

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.

None

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.

None

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.

No affect

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

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

No affect

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.

No affect

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.

No affect

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

No affect

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.

None

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.

The area is a popular recreational area for fishing and hunting. No affect is anticipated.

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.

None

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

None

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

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

None

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.

None

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Clive Rooney
	Title: Area Manager

Signature: S/Clive Rooney/S	Date: 12/27/11
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V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Action

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

No Significant Impact

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Hoyt Richads Title: Glasgow Unit Manager
Signature: s/Hoyt Richards/s	
Date: 12/27/11	