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DNRC - Trust Land Management Division

DEC 11 2003

D.N.R.C.

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Macum Energy, Inc. – Ervin Ridge Natural Gas Pipeline - Right-of-Way Easement Across State Land

Proposed Implementation Date: December 1, 2003

Proponent: Macum Energy, Inc., 730 Main Street, Suite 103, Billings, MT 59105 – ph. (406) 254-1054

Type and Purpose of Action: Macum Energy, Inc. (Macum) has requested permission to install a 3” polyethylene pipeline for the transportation of natural gas across private, Federal, and State lands, as well as upgrade/maintain an existing access road adjacent to the Ervin Ridge Wilderness Study Area within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument in Blaine County, Montana. Macum is applying for a right-of-way easement from the State of Montana for the construction/maintenance of natural gas pipeline and maintenance of the existing access road from the Federal 22-28 natural gas well. The proposed pipeline route would cross approximately 3,557.12 feet of State land.

Location: SE¼; Section 16, Township 24.0 North, Range 19.0 East, MPM

County: Blaine County, Montana

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, and GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

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LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (MT DNRC) has been petitioned by Macum Energy, Inc. to install/maintain a three-inch polyethylene pipeline for the transportation of natural gas across State land. The proponent has applied for a right-of-way from the State of Montana for the construction and maintenance of a natural gas pipeline and maintenance of an existing access road across State land.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed an Environmental Assessment for the public lands that are involved in this project, which is adjacent to the Ervin Ridge Wilderness Study Area within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. The BLM has chosen the action alternative to allow authorization of necessary permits on public lands and minerals administered by them for this project. The BLM will implement resource protection, mitigation, and monitoring measures to ensure that the impacts to this area adjacent to the Ervin Ridge Wilderness Study Area will be minimal.

The State’s surface lessees, Frank F. & Lis B. Maxwell have been notified of this proposal. They have been sent a Notice of Settlement Damages Form to complete for the proposed project across their surface lease with the State of Montana. Damages are anticipated with this type of project on the surface of the State land. Arrangements have been made for compensation with the Maxwell’s by Macum Energy, Inc.

<p>2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:</p>	<p>The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's, Havre Unit Office, Minerals Management Bureau, and the Montana Board of Oil and Gas are the agencies that have jurisdiction for this type of project on the State School Trust Land. The BLM is the agency that has jurisdiction for the public lands that are involved with this project. The public lands contained within this project are the majority of the proposed disturbance in this area. The BLM will handle all necessary permits on public lands and the minerals associated with them. Deeded land is involved with this project and those landowners will have jurisdiction on the surface of those lands and minerals, unless those minerals are allocated to Federal or State agencies.</p>
<p>3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:</p>	<p>Action Alternative: Macum is proposing to install a three-inch polyethylene pipeline for the transportation of natural gas across State land within an existing two-track trail. Macum will apply for a right-of-way easement across State land to secure their interest in the gas pipeline and access road. Grant Macum permission to install the pipeline across State land on the existing two-track trail to minimize the overall disturbance to the remaining portion of State land found within this section.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Macum will not be granted permission to install a three-inch polyethylene pipeline on an existing two-track trail. Macum will not be able to transport natural gas across State land from the Federal 22-28 well. Macum will not be granted a right-of-way easement for the construction and maintenance of pipeline and access road across State land.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
<p>4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>(Continued on Next Page)</u></p>	<p>The soils on this tract of State land are primarily shallow clay loams that are highly erodable. This tract of State land is used for livestock grazing purposes, through a surface lease with the State of Montana administered by the MT DNRC. The topography on this tract of State land consists mainly of shallow clay range sites that contain steep coulees and a network of ridges that divide the drainages found within this tract. There are no unusual geological features present in the route of the pipeline.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>(Continued on Next Page)</u></p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?

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Action Alternative: Macum will disturb the soils on this tract of State land. Mitigation measures will be used to stockpile the topsoil on the upslope side of the pipeline trench, so that it may be used for reclaiming the site. The excessive dirt will be stockpiled on the down slope side of the pipeline trench and used first to refill the trench. The proponent will be required to reclaim the disturbed area, once the pipeline project has been completed. Macum will not operate when soil conditions are wet or muddy. Macum will only be allowed to work in frozen or dry surface conditions. Macum will be responsible for preventative maintenance on the existing access road and prevent any "cutting" of the road. Macum will install water bars where needed on the road to prevent sediment loss from disturbed areas onto non-disturbed areas.

No Action Alternative: The natural gas gathering pipeline will not be installed in the access road on this tract of State land. The soils will not be disturbed, but the potential for erosion will still exist in this area.

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?

The water quality, quantity, and distribution found within this area is very low. The reservoirs in this area are heavily dependent upon having spring run-off events and intense thunderstorms during the summer to fill up. Intermittent coulees carry a lot of sediment with these types of events and the water quality can be poor.

Action Alternative: This project will have a minimal impact on surface and groundwater resources in the surrounding area. Installing a natural gas pipeline across the State land on an existing access road will not impact the water quality, quantity, and distribution. The location of the proposed pipeline is in an extremely rural area that is primarily used for grazing and dryland agricultural purposes. Water quality will not be impacted with this project. Drinking water will not be contaminated in this area.

No Action Alternative: The natural gas pipeline will not be installed across the State land. The water quality, quantity, and distribution will not be impacted in this area.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I air shed)?</p>	<p>The air quality in this area is very good.</p> <p>Action Alternative: No pollutants will be produced by installing a natural gas pipeline across the State land. Some dust particulates may be produced during the initial trenching and filling stages. However, the air quality will return to normal once these activities have been completed.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The air quality will not be impacted in this area. Macum will not be allowed to install a pipeline across this tract of State land.</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>The vegetative communities found within this area include the following plants: western wheatgrass (<i>Agropyron smithii</i>), needle-and-thread (<i>Stipa comata</i>), blue grama, (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>), green needlegrass (<i>Stipa viridula</i>), sedges (<i>Carex spp.</i>), prairie junegrass (<i>Koeleria pyramidata</i>), sandberg bluegrass (<i>Poa secunda</i>), prairie sandreed (<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i>), cudweed sagewort (<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>), fringed sagewort (<i>Artemisia frigida</i>), dense clubmoss (<i>Selaginella densa</i>), silver sagebrush (<i>Artemisia cana</i>), ponderosa pine (<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>), and Douglas fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>). These vegetative communities are void of noxious weeds and there is potential to introduce noxious weeds into the area with this type of activity.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The vegetative communities in the immediate area of the disturbance will be temporarily altered with this type of project. The topsoil excavated from the site will be stockpiled on the upslope side of the pipeline trench for later use in the reclamation plan. Reclamation efforts will ensure that any vegetative communities that are disturbed will be reclaimed to their natural state. The reclamation plan will provide erosion protection, support for the surrounding habitat types, and the return of the grazing land to its native potential. Installing the pipeline in the road will decrease overall impacts to the vegetative communities in this area. Macum will pressure wash all equipment prior to entering the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The vegetative communities found throughout the proposed project area will not be disturbed. Rare plant and cover types will not be impacted. The pipeline will not be constructed across this tract of State land.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:
Is there substantial use of the area by important
wildlife, birds or fish?

The proposed action is located adjacent to the Ervin Ridge Wilderness Study Area (ERWSA) with the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. This area provides crucial winter range for mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep.

Action Alternative: Wildlife habitat found in the immediate area of disturbance will be slightly impacted. However, the disturbance will be small in scope and the reclamation plan will ensure that the vegetative communities are restored to their natural state. The pipeline will be buried in the existing access road to minimize the overall disturbance to the surrounding ecosystem. Construction activities and an increase in road travel may temporarily displace some wildlife species found in this area between July 1 and November 30 of even given year. These species will return to normal activities once the pipeline project is completed. The proponent will not be allowed to conduct any construction or road maintenance activities from December 1 to June 30 of each given year. This stipulation will minimize the impacts to mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep during this crucial time of year.

No Action Alternative: The terrestrial and avian life and their habitats will not be impacted on the State land or in this area. Macum will not be given permission to construct the pipeline across the State land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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?

The Macum Environmental Assessment completed by the BLM found no long-term effects to the Listed, Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive Species, or Species of Special Concern within this area with this type of project.

Action Alternative: The proposed natural gas pipeline will have a minimal impact on the unique, endangered, fragile, and limited environmental resources present in this area. There are no wetlands located in the area of disturbance. No sensitive species or species of special concern will be threatened by this project. Listed, threatened, or endangered species will be able to migrate through this area with minimal impact. The pipeline will be buried underneath the existing access road a depth of 2-4 feet and will be out of sight from any animal.

No Action Alternative: The unique, endangered, fragile and limited environmental resources found on this tract of State land will not be altered. Listed, Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive Species, and Species of Special Concern will continue to use this area with minimal disturbance. The pipeline will not be installed across the State land. There will be no upgrade or maintenance of the existing access road located within this project.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?

Macum hired Gar C. Wood and Associates to conduct a cultural survey on a 99-acre inspection area along a connecting pipeline from a proposed federal natural gas well.

Action Alternative: The Montana DNRC has conducted preliminary cultural surveys on this tract of State land in the past and has found no cultural resources on this tract. The proposed route of the natural gas pipeline across this tract of State land was inspected by Gar C. Wood. He did not find any cultural or archaeological resources on the surface within the area of the proposed route. Buried or unknown cultural and archaeological resources may exist in the route of the proposed disturbance. If cultural or archaeological resources are discovered at any time during the installation of the pipeline, the proponent shall cease all activity and contact the MT DNRC's, Havre Unit Office and the Departments Archaeologist in Helena immediately.

No Action Alternative: There will be no change in the existing unknown cultural and archaeological resources that may be present on this tract of State land. Natural erosion, road use, and continued livestock grazing would over time, have the potential to further expose cultural and/or archaeological resources in this area.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p>The proposed project is adjacent to the Ervin Ridge Wilderness Study Area within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The proposed natural gas pipeline route will not be visible to the public. There is no legal access to this tract of State land and the disturbed areas will be reclaimed with native vegetation. Adjacent landowner(s) are the only people who can grant permission to the public to access this tract of State land. The project is located approximately 53 miles south of Chinook in Blaine County, Montana. This tract of State land is primarily used for livestock grazing purposes. The pipeline will not create any excessive noise or light disturbances since it will be buried underneath the surface of the existing access road.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The aesthetics found on this tract of State land will not be altered. Macum will not be granted permission to install the natural gas pipeline on this tract of State land and they will not be issued a right-of-way easement.</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>The landscape in the area of the proposed disturbance is primarily used for livestock grazing purposes. Wildlife use this area very extensively as it is crucial winter range for mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep.</p> <p>Action Alternative: This project will not demand the environmental resources of land, water, air, or energy. The natural gas pipeline will be installed underneath the existing access road across this tract of State land. Livestock grazing will continue to be the only authorized surface activity on this tract of State land. Mitigation measures implemented by the BLM will ensure that there will be no additional demands on the environmental resources of land, water, air, or energy.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The environmental resources that are currently found on this tract of State land will not be altered. Macum will not be granted permission to install the pipeline or upgrade/maintain the existing road across this tract of State land.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?</p>	<p>The MT DNRC will continue to cooperate with the BLM, where it is in the best interest of the State, School Trust beneficiaries, and the environment.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The Montana DNRC will continue to evaluate this tract of State School Trust land every ten years to monitor grazing management activities and determine the stocking capacity on this tract of State land. There are no other known studies taking place on this tract of State School Trust land at this point in time. The project will not impact other studies, plans, or projects that the DNRC has or may have planned for this tract of State land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The Montana DNRC will continue to monitor and evaluate livestock grazing management practices on this tract of State land.</p>
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III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
<p>14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>The area of the proposed project is in an extremely rural portion of Blaine County, Montana. The human health and safety risks in this area are low. However, this area is a long ways from any medical facility.</p> <p>Action Alternative: Macum Energy, Inc., their subcontractors, and its employees understand the risks associated with the installation of a natural gas pipeline and upgrading/maintaining the existing access road across this tract of State land. The proponent, subcontractors, and/or their employees assume these risks as occupational hazards.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The human health and safety risks found in this area will continue to remain the same. Macum will not be given permission to install the pipeline across this tract of State land.</p>

<p>15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>The area of the proposed project is primarily used for livestock grazing purposes. Currently there are no industrial or commercial activities on this tract of State land.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The installation of a natural gas pipeline will add to the industrial activity on this tract of State land. Macum Energy, Inc. recently drilled and exploratory natural gas well on BLM. Macum now has enough natural gas wells in the area to construct a pipeline that is economically feasible. Installing a natural gas pipeline underneath the surface of the existing access road on this tract of State land will not alter livestock grazing activities that occur in this area. The reclamation plan will ensure that the disturbed areas area seeded with native grasses so that the grazing management and livestock distribution levels will not change as a result of this project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The agricultural activities and native plant production will not be altered on this tract of State land. Macum will not be given permission to construct a pipeline across this tract of State land.</p>
<p>16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>The area of the proposed project is very isolated. Macum will have to hire a subcontractor to do the work of installing the pipeline and upgrading the access road.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will provide Macum Energy, Inc. with a reliable pipeline to transport natural gas from producing natural gas wells in this area. The project will not move or eliminate jobs within the surrounding area. Some work may have to be hired out and this would create some jobs. These jobs will be minimal and for a short period of time, until the project can be completed.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The quality and distribution of employment will not be altered. The subcontractor doing the pipeline work will be out of an additional job. Macum will not be given permission to install the pipeline across the State land.</p>
<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not create or eliminate tax revenue in Blaine County. The project will have no impact on the local and state tax base.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The local and state tax base will not be affected. Tax revenue will remain the same in Blaine County.</p>

<p>18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?</p>	<p>The BLM has conducted field pre-work conference to ensure all mitigating measures are understood. The BLM will have a representative present during the construction and upgrade phases of this project.</p> <p>Action Alternative: There will be an increase in traffic on the existing roads during the initial stages of installing the natural gas pipeline. Once the project is completed activity in this area will return to a minimal. The project will not create a demand for additional government services. The project will not require the services of fire protection, police, or schools.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no demand for additional government services on this tract of State land. The Montana DNRC will continue to manage School Trust lands to generate revenue for the Trust beneficiaries, while considering the environmental factors and protecting the future income-generating capacity of the land.</p>
<p>19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?</p>	<p>The BLM, State lands, and Macum Energy, Inc. have agreed to terms for this project. Macum will follow the direction the BLM has given for this entire project across the State land to ensure that the environmental impacts are mitigated.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will not interfere with any other locally adopted environmental plans or goals that the Montana DNRC has for this tract of State land. No zoning plans will be in effect for the installation of a natural gas pipeline.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There are no other known locally adopted environmental plans or goals for this tract of State land. The authorized grazing activity is licensed by the State of Montana for this tract of State land. All revenue generated from livestock grazing fees on this tract of State land is put into the School Trust Fund of the State of Montana.</p>

<p>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?</p>	<p>The access into this area is limited by the private landowners that border the public land. The quality of this area for recreational activities is very good for hunting, hiking, and camping. The Missouri River is located in this area and wilderness activities are endless in the Missouri River Breaks. This area and this tract of State land have tremendous recreational potential and that is the reason why so many mitigation measures must be taken to ensure minimal impacts to the environment.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The proposed natural gas pipeline is located on a tract of non-accessible State land. The main recreational activities that occur here are hunting and hiking. The proposed natural gas pipeline will have a minimal impact on the recreational activities that occur in this area. The private landowners in this area have control over the access into these public lands, since their deeded land surrounds it.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The recreational activities on this tract of State land will continue to be hunting and hiking. The recreational potential for this tract of State land is high being located in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>The area of the proposed project is located in an extremely rural area in southern Blaine County, Montana. The density and distribution of people is very low. This area is primarily used for livestock grazing purposes and people in this area are mostly farmers and ranchers. Housing in this area consists mainly of older ranch homes that single families live in. This project will not add to the population or require additional housing in this area.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will not add to the population and require additional housing. The density and distribution of population and housing will continue to remain the same. The project will be completed in one to two weeks. The industrial activity on this tract of State land will not impact the local people in this area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The density and distribution of population and housing will continue to be low in this rural farming and ranching community. Macum will not be given permission to install a pipeline across this tract of State land.</p>

<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>Natural gas activity will not impact the social structures and mores of the people who live in this area. Upgrading roads in this area will improve the ability of ranchers to more frequently check their livestock.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will not disrupt any native or traditional lifestyles found in this area. The social structures and mores will not be changed with the installation of a natural gas pipeline. The BLM has taken measures to ensure that Macum will not impact the native and traditional lifestyles that area found in this area with this type of project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The native and traditional lifestyles will not be disrupted. Macum Energy, Inc. will not be given permission to install the natural gas pipeline across this tract of State land.</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>The cultural uniqueness of this area was documented and reviewed during the course of the pre-work conference held in the field with all responsible parties. The diversity of this area is very important to the people and their livelihood as ranchers. This project will be completed in a manner that is respectable to the people in the surrounding area.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The proposed natural gas pipeline will not cause a shift in the unique quality of this area, since it will be placed in an existing route that has already been disturbed. The reclamation plan will ensure that the grazing land is returned back to its natural state in areas where the ground was disturbed for this project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The cultural uniqueness and diversity of this area will remain the same. This tract of State land will continue to be used for licensed livestock grazing activity through a surface lease issued by the Montana DNRC/TLMD/AGMB. Macum will not be given permission to install a pipeline across this tract of State land.</p>

<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p>Community composition was examined to identify disproportionate affects to low income or minority populations. The examination found no minority or low income communities to be disproportionately affected under any of the alternatives.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will generate additional revenue for the Montana DNRC/TLMD through an easement issued to Macum Energy, Inc. Macum will benefit from the installation of a natural gas gathering pipeline to transport natural gas from their producing natural gas wells located in this area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no additional revenue generated from this tract of State land to the School Trust Fund of Montana. Macum Energy, Inc. will be forced to shut-in and perhaps plug and abandoned the natural gas wells in this area.</p>
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EA Checklist Prepared By: Dan Dobler Havre Unit Manager
Name Title

 Dan Dobler
Signature

Date: **December 2, 2003**

<p>IV. FINDING</p>	
<p>25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:</p>	<p>N. S. I</p>
<p>27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis</p>	

EA Checklist Approved By: Clive Rooney Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office
Name Title

 Clive Rooney
Signature

 12-5-03
Date