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D.N.R.C.

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: 3-D Geophysical Survey/ Geophysical Permit #1426

Proposed Implementation Date: Spring 2004

Proponent: Robinson Oil Company, LLC 100 North 27th street, Suite 640 Box 1996 Billings, MT 59103-1996 (406) 248-4929

Type and Purpose of Action: To conduct a 3-D seismic geophysical survey in order to locate potential hydrocarbon resources at depth.

Location: T34N, R3E, Sec 30 Lots 3,4, SE4, E2SW4
T34N, R3E, Sec 32 NE4NE4

County: Toole

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LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

<p>1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.</p>	<p>T34N, R3E, Sec 30 Surface Owner, Gary & Noema Aklestad Mineral Estate: State of Montana, DNRC T34N, R3E, Sec 32 Surface Owner, State of Montana, DNRC Surface Lessee, Gary Aklestad Proposed Operator, Robinson Oil Company, LLC Proposed Geophysical Contractor, Grant Geophysical</p>
<p>2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:</p>	<p>DNRC is not aware of any other agencies with jurisdiction or other permits needed to complete this project.</p>
<p>3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED.</p>	<p>Reject the request</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS
<p>4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)</p> <p>[N] Section 30 is a cultivated tract. The surface is private with deed to Gary & Neoma Aklestad. Critical for geophysical activity to commence prior to spring fieldwork that is estimated to commence within early April. Section 32 is all in native sod. There are no surface water features, 'springs, creeks, ponds, etc.' located on the tract. This tract consists of 40 acres. No environmental concerns noted. Important for work on this tract to be conducted during dry or frozen conditions to lessen the vehicle impact of rutting.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N] There are no surface water features located on these tracts. Data on ground water is limited.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

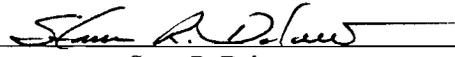
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[N] The proposed action will not alter air quality in the immediate or surrounding areas.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[N] The existing range condition on section 32 is fair, dominated by blue grama, needle and thread and prickly pear cactus.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[N] The proposed action may affect prairie-nesting birds. However, prairie-nesting birds are not known to utilize the site. The proposed action will not impact wildlife forage, cover, or traveling corridors for other wildlife species. Nor will this action change the juxtaposition of wildlife forage, water, or hiding and thermal cover. Wildlife usage is expected to return to "normal" (pre-action usage) following the survey. The proposed action will not have long-term negative affects on existing wildlife species and/or wildlife habitat because of its relatively small scale.
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?	[N] The proposed project site is not expected to cause adverse impacts on threatened or endangered species. This native rangeland area is very short and may be considered mountain plover or burrowing owl habitat. However, no known mountain plover or burrowing owl populations area present within the project area. There is no confirmed use of the area by a threatened or endangered species, but the potential of occasional use does exist. There are no other species of special concern, or any sensitive habitat types associated with the proposed project area.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] During the field inspection no archaeological sites were found. The surfaces of both tracts have been previously disturbed by mechanical means. Section 30 is a cultivated tract while section 32 remains in native sod but shows past evidence of renovation.
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?	[N] The proposed action is a small-scale project and will occur in a remote area. This geophysical survey will not cause a large change in the aesthetic character of the land. However, within section 32 geophysical activities must be conducted during dry or frozen conditions to prevent rutting of the landscape.
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?	[N] The demand on environmental resources such as land, water, air, or energy will not be affected by the proposed action. The proposed action will not consume resources that are limited in the area. There are no other projects in the area that will affect the proposed project.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N] Currently, there are no other studies, plans, or projects associated with the area.
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III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N] This project will not affect human health or human safety in the area.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] The proposed action could likely increase the potential for future oil and gas production within the area.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[Y] This project will create temporary employment for a few contractors within the geologic field. If the project is successful there could be some significant chance for further employment.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[Y] The proposed action will create some local tax base in the short term. Long-term tax base could become significant if the project is successful.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	[N] No additional governmental services will be needed as a result of the proposed action.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] The proposed action is in compliance with State and County laws. No other management plans are in effect for the area.
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?	[N] No impacts on recreational activities are anticipated as a result of the proposed action.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	[N] The proposed action will not change the human population distribution or the housing requirements in the area.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] The proposed action will not alter the social structure of surrounding native communities.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] The proposed action will not impact the cultural uniqueness and/or the cultural diversity of the area.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	[Y] The proposed action will likely significantly increase the potential for future oil and gas development in the area. Therefore, the school trust revenues will likely increase due to this action.

EA Checklist Prepared By: 
Steve R. Dobson

Land Use Specialist - CLO
Title

Date: March 18, 2004

ROBINSON OIL COMPANY, LLC

SEISMIC PERMIT # 1426
T 34N R 3E SEC 30 & 32
TOOLE COUNTY, MONTANA

