

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Well Site Easement.	Proposed Implementation Date: June 1, 2004.
Proponent: Judith Basin County Commissioners/City of Stanford.	
Type and Purpose of Action: Easement application for two new municipal supply water wells, transmission main and pumphouse for the town of Stanford.	
Location: NE1/4SE1/4, Sec. 17, T16N, R12E.	County: Judith Basin County.

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MAY 08 2004

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Judith Basin County Commissioners; Mt.DNRC, Entranco, Inc., Kraig C. McCleod, PE; State Historic Preservation Office, Dr. Mark Baumler; Archaeological Consultants, Gar C. Wood and Associates; Milestone Surveying, Scott C. Koterba.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	The "No Action" alternative. The alternative to issue the easement for the water enhancement project.

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geological features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	[N] Silty soils are present. There are no special concerns or considerations.
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IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<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>[Y] There is important ground water available, thus, the request. There is always a potential for water contamination during the construction phases. This possibility will be addressed in the plan. Water degradation will be carefully monitored and treated. After the project is completed, a cleaner/safer water supply can be expected.</p>
<p>6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p>[N] Pollutants and particulates should not be produced.</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>[N] There are no rare plants or cover types present.</p>
<p>8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>[N] Wildlife do not utilize this area. It is basically a part of town.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>[N] There are no species of special concern that utilize this area.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archeological, or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] Gar C. Wood and Associates reports: "No archaeological sites were discovered on the project area. No sacred shrines or religious sites were encountered by the investigators in the immediate area of the project. The inspection area was covered with native sod. The wells will set in an idle piece of property now used to store old farm equipment for a community museum also located on the property."</p>
<p>11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographical feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p>[Y] Although this project is mainly under ground, it is also in town and will be noticed by the town folks. There should not be excessive noise or light associated with the construction phase of the project.</p>

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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?	[Y] Water is a limited resource. There are other pre-existing wells and transmission lines that are all interconnected. This project also includes construction of a new elevated storage tank and removal of the existing tank. These are under a different existing easement.
13.	OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[Y] This tract is under a Special Lease to the Judith Basin County Commissioners for the use of the Museum facilities.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

14.	HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risk in the area?	[Y] This project will improve the water quality and quantity for the Town of Stanford. It will reduce health risks for the future by providing good, safe drinking water to the community.
15.	INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] A more abundant water supply will affect and improve all industrial, commercial and agricultural activities in the Stanford area.
16.	QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N] New jobs may be created with this project, but I suspect not. Most contractors will already have their crews in place prior to this commitment.
17.	LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[Y] This water development/improvement for the Town of Stanford will probably cause an increase in local/city taxes to help pay for the project.
18.	DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?	[N] There will be an increase in traffic to the area, but I do not think that it will be substantial. Other services should not be needed.
19.	LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?	[Y] There are other city and county management/zoning plans in effect for this area.
20.	ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF	[N] Wilderness areas are not accessed through this

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

<p>RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?</p>	<p>tract. There is only the recreational potential of the museum use on the tract.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>[N] Additional housing will not be required.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>[N] Disruption is not likely.</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>[N] There should be no shift.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p>[N] None.</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By:

BARNY D. SMITH, Lewistown Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office


 Signature
 Date: April 20, 2004

IV. FINDING

<p>25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:</p>	<p>The alternative to issue the easement for the water enhancement project.</p>
<p>26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:</p>	<p>Potential negative impacts are minimal. Most of this project will be unseen, underground. It is located in an area already congested with structures and previous projects. This will blend in with the landscape. The positive impacts will far out weigh the negative ones. A more abundant municipal water supply with better, safer facilities will result from this.</p>
<p>27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:</p>	

IV. FINDING

EIS More Detailed EA No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved by:
CLIVE ROONEY, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office


Signature _____
Date: 4-20-21