

FOR: Connie Daruk

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Installation of an Ingress/Egress route. Proposed Implementation Date: Spring 2006
 Proponent: Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP
 Type and Purpose of Action: Install a route for Ingress/Egress to access adjacent lands across the NE 1/4 NE 1/4 of section 16.
 Location: T25N R54E 16 NE 1/4 NE 1/4 County: Richland County

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	None RECEIVED MAR 08 2006
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Allow Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP to install a route for Ingress/Egress across the NE 1/4 NE 1/4 of section 16. Deny permission for Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP to install a route for Ingress/Egress across the NE 1/4 NE 1/4 of section 16.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS
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?	[Y] Disturbance will occur along the area where the route is proposed. Action: Mitigation measures will be implemented that minimize soil disturbance. There is an existing two-track road that the proposed route will follow. The distance of the route will be 1173.93 feet. A field review showed no signs of fragile, compactible, or unstable soils. With the relatively small scale of the proposed project no impacts are anticipated. No Action: Implementation of the no action alternative will not effect the soils.

II. 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>[N] The installation of the proposed action will not effect any surface or ground water resources.</p> <p>Action: No effect.</p> <p>No Action: No effect on the resource.</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]</p> <p>Action: Pollutants and particulates will be produced at the time of installation. Pollutants will be produced during routing usage of the route. With the relatively small scale of the proposed project no impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Action: No effect.</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] The area where the project is proposed is presently in native range. The primary grass species are western wheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, green needlegrass, and needle & thread grass. An on site inspection reveled no evidence of any rare plant species within the proposed project area.</p> <p>Action: Impacts to the vegetative community will occur within the proposed action location. Due to the limited scope of the proposed project, permanent impacts to the vegetative community are not anticipated</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</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] No wildlife were seen at the time of the field inspection, however the area is known to be deer, antelope, and turkey habitat.</p> <p>Action: The limited scope of the project will be such that impacts to fawning and nesting activities will be limited.</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
<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] The habitat available on this section is conducive to several species of concern (sage grouse, prairie dogs, etc.). An on site inspection of the proposed action area revealed no evidence of any federally listed threatened, endangered, sensitive, or species of concern. Due to the limited scope of the proposed action, no impacts to federally listed threatened, endangered, sensitive, or species of concern are anticipated.</p> <p>Action: No effect.</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] Eastern Land Office staff inspected the area of potential effect for the Ingress/Egress route, and identified no cultural or paleontologic resources.</p> <p>Action: If cultural sites within the project area are impacted, alternatives will be assessed and mitigation measures will be taken.</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</p>
<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>[N] With the rural aspects of this part Richland County and the predominant enterprise of livestock grazing in the area the visual impacts will not be significant.</p> <p>Action: No visual impacts are anticipated from the proposed action.</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</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>[N]</p> <p>Action: The proposed action will not use resources that are limited in the area. Grazing is the only other activity in the area.</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N] None.

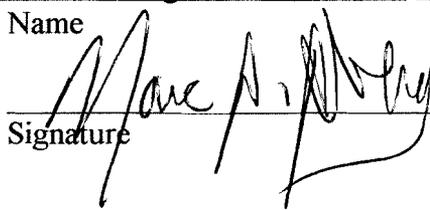
III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES: (Y/N)
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N] Action: This section lies in a very rural portion of Richland County, with very low human population. The nature of the proposed action will not add any risks to the human environment. No Action: No effect.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N] The current activity in the area is grazing. Action: The implementation of the action will not effect this activity. No Action: No effect.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N] Action: The action will provide short-term employment during installation. No Action: Potential short-term employment will not be created.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N] Action: The proposed action will not create or eliminate tax revenue. No Action: No effect.

<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>[N] Action: During installation, more traffic will be added to the area roads. After installation, traffic levels will return to normal. The action will not add to the demand for government services. No Action: No effect.</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>[N] Action: The action alternative will not effect State, County, City, USFS, BLM, or Tribal management plans. No Action: No effect.</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>[N] Action: The proposed action will not affect the access to any potential recreational areas on this tract. No Action: No effect.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>[N] Action: Additional housing will not be added by this action, nor will there be a density or distribution change in the local population. No Action: No effect.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>[N] Action: Native or traditional lifestyles will not be effected. No Action: No effect.</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>[N] Action: A shift in the unique quality of this area is not anticipated by the implementation of the proposed action. No Action: No effect.</p>

<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p>[N] Action: None No Action: None</p>
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EA Checklist Prepared By: Jason Crowder Land Use Specialist
 Name Title
 Signature 1-24-06 Date

<p>IV. FINDING</p>	
<p>25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:</p>	<p>Allow Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP to install a route for Ingress/Egress across the NE ¼ NE ¼ of section 16.</p>
<p>26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:</p>	<p>None</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: Marc Aberg Land Use Program Manager
 Name Title
 Signature 1/24/2006 Date