

DNRC - Trust Land Management Division

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Buried Telecommunications Line	Proposed Implementation Date: February 23, 2006
Proponent: Nemont Telephone Cooperative, P O Box 600, Scobey, MT 59263-0600	
Type and Purpose of Action: Nemont Telephone Cooperative has submitted an amendment to an existing Right of Way Easement to place a new buried telecommunications line next to an existing line located on State land. The telecommunications line will be 5,417.3 feet in length and utilize a right of way consisting of 3.032 acres. This would add an additional .608 acres to existing right-of-way.	
Location: E2E2, Sec. 9 Twp. 35N Rge. 45E	County: Daniels

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	The applicant has completed a Right of Way Application and submitted the application to the Glasgow Unit Office. The purpose of the request is to place a buried telecommunication line on State land. The right-of-way application is to amend an existing right-of-way.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The Federal Communications branch of the Federal Government may have jurisdiction for this type of project. There may also be other State of Montana agencies that may have jurisdiction for this project.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: RECEIVED MAR 08 2006 LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE	Action Alternative: Grant a right of way easement to Nemont Telephone Cooperative to place a telecommunications line on State land. No Action Alternative: Deny a right of way easement to Nemont Telephone Cooperative to place a telecommunications line on State land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	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>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the soils under this type of alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: This type of project will impact the soils on the telecommunications route. The impacts are minimal and the area of impact will continue to produce small grain crops.</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>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to water quality, quantity and distribution.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the water quality, quantity and distribution of surface water on the State land.</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>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the air quality under this type of alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts on the air quality of the land involved with the project.</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the vegetation cover under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The area of impact will continue to produce small grain crops.</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>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: This type of</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	<p>activity will not disturb the habitat types on the State land. The area of impact is small in scope and there will be minimal impacts to the wildlife and upland bird resources of the area.</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>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project area contains no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the historical or archeological sites under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: There are no known historical or archaeological sites on the areas to be impacted by this project. The area of impact was reviewed by DNRC personnel. The on site inspection showed no historical or archaeological sites present on the area of impact.</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>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to aesthetic values under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project site is located next to a highway and is visible to the general public. The project will have no impacts to the aesthetic values associated with the land involved with this project.</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>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the environmental resources of land, water air or energy under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will place no demands on</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	environmental resources of land, water, air or energy.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	<p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to studies, plans or projects under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The telecommunications line installation will not impact other projects or plans that may be occurring on the State land.</p>

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	<p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to human health and safety under this alternative.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: The installation of a telecommunications line has various human health and safety risks. The employer and employee identify the health and safety risks as occupational hazards.</p>
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	<p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to industrial, commercial and agriculture activities under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will enhance the telecommunications capabilities of the applicant. The project will enhance telephone communication for rural residents.</p>
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	<p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to quantity and distribution of employment under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the quantity and</p>

	distribution of employment.
<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to local and state tax base under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts on the local or state tax base.</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>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts for demand for government services under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will place no demands for government services.</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>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the locally adopted environmental plans and goals under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact locally adopted environmental plans and goals.</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>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to recreational values under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the recreational values associated with the state land.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to density and distribution of population and housing.</p> <p>Action Alternative. The project will not impact the density and distribution of the population and housing on this rural area.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to social structures and mores under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the social</p>

	structures of the local communities.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	<p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to cultural uniqueness and diversity under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the land.</p>
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	<p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to social and economic circumstances under this alternative.</p> <p>Action Alternative. The project provides some economic benefit to the local community businesses that supply products to the company that will be installing the buried communications line.</p>

EA Checklist Prepared By: Randy Dirkson Land Use Specialist Date: 2-23-2006
Randy Dirkson Land Use Specialist

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action Alternative was selected. The Action Alternative will supply the rural community with new and updated telecommunications. The Action Alternative will also increase the revenue for the School Trust.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	The project will have no significant impacts to the State land natural resource.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:	

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:

Name

Title

Signature

Date: