

DNRC - Trust Land Management Division

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Installation and expansion of existing oil & gas pad site. Proposed Implementation Date: Spring 2006

Proponent: Huntington Resources, Inc.

Type and Purpose of Action: The proposed action is an expansion of an existing oil & gas pad site. The site will be designed to expand the pad by 240' X 400'. This will allow the construction of a reserve pit with the dimensions of 60' X 150' X 12'. This action will help facilitate a more cost effective and efficient way to extract the oil & gas from the Bakken formation.

Location: T25N R55E 16 SW4SW4 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
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	Montana Board of Oil & Gas Conservation The Montana Board of Oil & Gas Conservation have received and approved the application for permit to drill the well.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Allow Huntington Resources, Inc. to install and expand the existing oil & gas pad site. Deny permission for Allow Huntington Resources, Inc. to install and expand the existing oil & gas pad site.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS
	<p>N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)</p> <p align="center">RECEIVED</p> <p align="center">APR 28 2006</p> <p align="center">LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<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>[Y] Disturbance will occur in and around the area were the pad site is proposed to be expanded.</p> <p>Action: Mitigation measures will be implemented that minimize soil disturbance. The topsoil, consisting of both the A and B horizons, will be stockpiled adjacent to the site for later reclamation. The flood plain for Timber Creek runs through the general area of the proposed site location. The proposed expansion will be staked and constructed so that it does not enter into the flood plain. 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.</p> <p>No Action: Implementation of the no action alternative will not effect the soils.</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] The installation of the proposed action will not effect any surface or ground water resources.</p> <p>Action: No effect anticipated.</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 construction. Pollutants will be produced during the initial construction phase of the proposed project. Thereafter a lesser amount of pollutants will be produced during normal operations and maintenance of the well. With the relatively small scale of the proposed project no impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>Action: No effect.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<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 and surrounding area. Huntington Resources, Inc. will be bonded and a reclamation plan will be drafted that will return the site back, as closely as possible, to its original state after the oil & gas production has ceased.</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>
<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 reveled no evidence of any federally listed threatened, endangered, sensitive, or species of concern.</p> <p>A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program showed no records of species of concern for the project area. 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</p>	<p>[N] Eastern Land Office staff inspected the area of</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>potential effect for the expansion project, 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. The proposed action is an expansion of an existing oil & gas pad site. The action will not create any more visual impacts to the surrounding area.</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 and oil & gas production are the only other activities in the area.</p> <p>No Action: No effect.</p>
<p>13.OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?</p>	<p>[N]</p> <p>None.</p>

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 after construction may produce harmful gases. This hazard will be mitigated by the placement of warning signs and frequent inspections by field staff. 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 and oil & gas production. Action: The implementation of the action will not affect these activities. 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 construction. 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.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	[N] Action: During installation, more traffic will be added to the area roads. After installation, traffic levels will decrease to a level that is conducive to the normal operations and maintenance of the well. The action will not add to the demand for government services. No Action: No effect.

<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>

EA Checklist Prepared By: Jason Crowder Land Use Specialist
Name Title

[Signature] 4-18-06
Signature Date

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Allow Huntington Resources, Inc. to install and expand the existing oil & gas pad site.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	None
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By: Marc Aberg Land Use Program Manager
Name Title

[Signature] 4/18/2006
Signature Date