

DS-252

# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Central Montana Communications, Inc. Denton/Stanford Exchange Right-of-Way Applications.	Proposed Implementation Date: 3/9/06.
Proponent: Central Montana Communications, Inc.	
Type and Purpose of Action: Telephone system upgrade for the Denton/Stanford Exchange. Placing an underground fiber optic cable within a 20 foot wide R/W.	
Location: Sec. 19, T17N, R13E, Sec. 28, T16N, R12E, Sec. 10, T19N, R14E Sec.12, T17N, R11E, Sec. 1, T15N, R12E Sec. 1, T17N, R11E, Sec. 27, T17N, R11E, Sec. 16, T18N, R13E, Sec. 17, T18N, R13E, Sec. 3, T19n, R14E, Sec. 16, T19N, R14E	County: Judith Basin County. <b>RECEIVED</b> MAY 04 2006 LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Mt. DNRC, Central Montana Communications, Inc., Cliff Jacobson, R/W Agent, Heberly and Associates.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	The "No Action" alternative. The alternative to issue permanent Right-of-Way Easements.

## IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are	[N] Most soils are silty in nature. There are no unusual geologic features present. There are no special reclamation considerations.
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**IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

<p>there unusual geological features? Are there special reclamation considerations?</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] Water quality should not be affected by this project.</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 or particulates will 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] The cable laying process is conducive to minimal vegetative disturbance.</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] These areas are mostly along the state highway.</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 I am aware of utilizing this area.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archeological, or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] There are no historical, paleontological or archaeological resources present based of our lease file reviews.</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] This project will be visible from populated areas, but there will not be excessive noise or light.</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] Limited resources will not be used.</p>

**IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N] There are no other projects that I am aware of.
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**III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION**

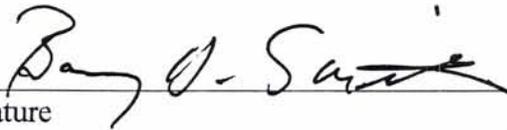
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risk in the area?	[Y] This proposed project should improve communication, enhancing human safety.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] This project will contribute to all activities in this area.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N] New jobs will not be created.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N] Taxes will not be affected.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?	[N] Other services will not be required.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] None.
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] There is limited recreational opportunity next to the public highway.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require	[N] Additional housing will not be required.

### III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

additional housing?	
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] Disruption is not likely.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] There should be no shift.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:	[N] None.

EA Checklist Prepared By:

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



Signature

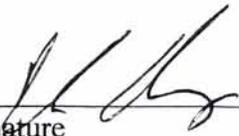
Date:

### IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	The alternative to issue permanent Right-of-Way Easements.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Minimal negative impacts are expected. Positive impacts should be prominent.
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:

CLIVE ROONEY, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office



Signature

Date: 3/22/16