

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Seismic Permit #1479	Proposed Implementation Date: March 22, 2006.
Proponent: Tesla Exploration/Devon Louisiana, Scott Lindenmuth.	
Type and Purpose of Action: Seismic exploration for natural gas development.	
Location: Sec. 29, T27N, R16E. Sec. 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, & 36 T27N, R15E.	County: Chouteau.

RECEIVED

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.	Scott Lindenmuth of Tesla Exploration for Devon Louisiana. Mt. DNRC. IX Ranch, Steve Roth, lessee of State Leases #7636, #7639, #8238, & #6268. Encore Operating LP. Klazuba Oil and Gas A Family. Mt. Board of Oil & Gas.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	The alternative to allow seismic exploration. The "No Action" alternative.

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 reclamation considerations for this type of minimal disturbance exploration with the use of thumper trucks.
---	---

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] There is no potential for water degradation from this proposed 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 and 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] 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] There is some use by wildlife, but it is not considered as substantial.</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 that I am aware of.</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.</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>[N] This project will not be visible from populated areas.</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 in the exploration project.</p>

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[Y] There is an "Attachment "A" with special stipulations for this exploration project.
--	---

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risk in the area?	[N] Human health and safety will not be affected.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] Natural gas production could be increased depending upon the outcome of this project.
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] This particular phase of gas development will not affect tax revenues.
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?	[Y] There are some recreational opportunities for hunting within these tracts.
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 allow seismic exploration.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Minimal negative impacts are expected if all of the special stipulations are followed.
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: 3/22/6