

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

COMPANY NAME: Asarco, LLC

Project: Black Pine Exploration

PERMIT OR LICENSE: 00180

LOCATION: T8N R14W secs. 9, 16,17

County: Granite

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP: [] Federal [] State [X] Private

TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: Asarco proposes to drill four exploration holes on patented claims which they own at the Black Pine Mine. Three of the holes will have minimal impact because they will be drilled on existing roads; a fourth will require construction of up to 700 feet of new, temporary road. Temporary sumps will be used to contain drill fluids.

Reclamation Plan: Sumps will be backfilled and reseeded after drilling; the road will be pulled back to contour, covered with stockpiled topsoil, and reseeded. Weed control will be carried out as needed for up to five years.

This document tiers to the Black Pine Draft Environmental Assessment issued 8/17/04 by DEQ and the USFS for Amendment 006 to DEQ/EMB Operating Permit 00063, and the final EA issued 10/8/04.

N = Not present or No Impact will occur.

Y = Impacts may occur (explain under Potential Impacts).

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
1. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are soils present which are fragile, erosive, susceptible to compaction, or unstable? Are there unusual or unstable geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	[N] Three of the holes will be located in previously disturbed areas in and along roads on private property (patented claims owned by Asarco). The fourth hole will be located down a new road crossing a moderate slope which has been previously logged and burned.
2. 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?	[N] Hole P2 has been moved 100 feet upslope to take it away from a low-lying area with seeps below a small pond.
3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[N] A core drill rig will be utilized and should minimize dust; minor combustion emissions will be produced by the drill and other vehicles at the site.
4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be significantly impacted? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[N] The only site which will disturb vegetation is pad P2 and its access road, which will cross a slope which was burned in 1988, and has also been logged. No significant impacts are expected.
5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[N]
6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?	[N]
7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] Pad P2 has been moved to avoid seeps, and will be a safe distance away from collapsing historic structures of no particular significance. Pad P3 is adjacent to a number of historic prospect pits.

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
8. 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?	[N] Three of the sites will be visible along private roads used occasionally by the public.
9. 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?	[N] The project area is surrounded by National Forest.
10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[N]

IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N] The drill sites will be signed; when possible, the roads will be closed to public access during drilling.
12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N] There are no such activities in the area.
13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N] The project will provide a few weeks of employment for an out-of-state drill crew and consultant.
14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N]
15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?	[N]
16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N]
17. 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] The project roads, though technically private, see some public use, particularly during hunting season. Road drilling should be completed before the season opens.
18. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF	[N]

IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	
19. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N]
20. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N]
21. PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Are we regulating the use of private property under a regulatory statute adopted pursuant to the police power of the state? (Property management, grants of financial assistance, and the exercise of the power of eminent domain are not within this category.) If not, no further analysis is required.	[Y]
22. PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Does the proposed regulatory action restrict the use of the regulated person's private property? If not, no further analysis is required.	[N]
23. PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Does the agency have legal discretion to impose or not impose the proposed restriction or discretion as to how the restriction will be imposed? If not, no further analysis is required. If so, the agency must determine if there are alternatives that would reduce, minimize or eliminate the restriction on the use of private property, and analyze such alternatives.	[N/A]
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	[N]

25. Alternatives Considered:

No Action:

Approval:

Approval with modification: No unresolved issues were identified which would require modification of the proposal.

26. Public Involvement: None is required at this level of disturbance.

27. Other Governmental Agencies with Jurisdiction: None, although USFS land is immediately adjacent to the outside boundary of the claim block.

28. Magnitude and Significance of Potential Impacts: There would be no significant impacts associated with this proposal.

29. Cumulative Effects: Insignificant in comparison to the effects of past logging and forest fires.

Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:

EIS More Detailed EA No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Prepared By: Warren McCullough
Chief, Environmental Management Bureau

Signature

Date