

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Install a new oil pipeline between an existing oil well and tank storage battery.	Proposed Implementation Date: June 2011
Proponent: TAQA North USA, Incorporated, 7400 East Caley Avenue, Suite 200, Centennial Colorado 8011	
Type and Purpose of Action: TAQA North USA Incorporated proposes to install a new oil well pipeline between State 16-4H oil well and a tank storage battery located on Section 8 Township 37 North Range 57 East. The pipeline will be 30 feet (2 rods) more or less in length starting at the 16-4H oil well. The pipeline will then go west 30 feet on a horizontal line to the section line, leaving the State land. The oil well pipeline will be located completely on an existing oil well drilling pad.	
Location: NW4NW4, Section 16 Township 37 North Range 57 East	County: Sheridan

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	TAQA North USA Incorporated contacted the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Minerals Management Bureau, Helena Office requesting permission to place a pipeline on State land. Minerals Management Bureau contacted the Glasgow Unit Office for the analysis of the pipeline project. The Glasgow Unit Office reviewed the project under the Montana Environmental Protection Act. The documentation for the project is addressed in the Environmental Assessment process.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	Other government agencies that have jurisdiction for this type of project are Montana Board of Oil and Gas.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant permission to TAQA North USE Incorporated to install an oil pipeline on State land. No Action Alternative: Deny permission to TAQA North USE Incorporated to install an oil pipeline on State land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compatible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: This type of project will alter the Marias clay soils (2 to 4 percent slopes) on the State land. The Marias clay has already been disturbed with the building of an oil well drilling pad. Upon pipeline abandonment, the Marias clay soils on the pipeline route will be reverted to dryland agriculture. The area will produce small grain crops as before pipeline construction.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, there will be no impacts to the Marias clay soils on the State land.</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>Action Alternative: The project will move oil from State 16-4H well on State land to an oil well tank battery on deeded land. The project will not impact ground or surface water resources.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, there will be no impacts to water quality, quantity or distribution.</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>Action Alternative: The oil well pipeline will have no impacts to the air quality on the State land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the air quality.</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: There is no vegetation on the pipeline route. The pipeline will be placed on an oil well drilling pad site. The well pad site contained no vegetation when it was constructed.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to any type of small grain vegetation.</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>Action Alternative: The State land contains no known habitat resources for wildlife and upland birds. The Montana National Heritage Programs showed no species of concern on or</p>

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	<p>near the project area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no impacts to the habitat resources associated with the State land.</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>Action Alternative: The area of impact contains no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources. The State land contains no wetlands or sensitive animal or plant species.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no impacts to the unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The area of impact contains no known historical or archaeological sites. The area was previously dryland agriculture. Any types of sites would have been destroyed when tract was broken with farming equipment for small grain production.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the historical or archaeological sites.</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>Action Alternative: This type of project will have no impacts to the aesthetics associated with the State land. The pipeline construction will be visible to the general public from a county road.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the aesthetics of the State land.</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>Action Alternative: This type of project will place no demands on environmental resources of land, water, air, or energy.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the land, water air or energy.</p>
<p>13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on</p>	<p>Action Alternative: This type of project will have no impact to other studies, plans or projects that</p>

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<p>this tract?</p>	<p>Department of Natural Resources and Conservation may have in place on the State land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the other projects that may be occurring on the State land.</p>

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
<p>14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The installation of an oil well pipeline has various human health and safety risks. The risks are understood by the employer and employee as occupational hazards. The impacts will be mitigated by the use of professional employees in the pipeline construction business.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts on human health and safety under this alternative.</p>
<p>15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will have no impact to the current activities that may be occurring on the State land. The current activities on this site will be the drilling of an oil well. Agriculture activities will continue to occur in the vicinity of the pipeline project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the livestock grazing activities that are occurring on the State land.</p>
<p>16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project may create jobs for pipeline construction companies that will construct the oil well pipeline.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the employment of the area under this alternative.</p>
<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project may have impacts on the local and state tax base and tax revenues. If the drilling of the oil well is successful</p>

	<p>then property taxes or other revenues from the project may increase.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the local and 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>Action Alternative: The project will place no additional demands for government services.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no demands for government services under this alternative.</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>Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts on environmental plans or goals. There are no other management plans on this project other than those implemented by Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to locally adopted environmental plans or goals under this alternative.</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>Action Alternative: The area of impact has no recreational values for hunting, bird watching, or scenic hiking etc. The project will have no impacts on the recreational values of the surrounding lands.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the recreational activities under this alternative.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the density and distribution of population and housing.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to population and housing under this alternative.</p>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not disrupt the traditional lifestyles of the local community. The local communities are rural agriculture orientated and oil activity has not altered the traditional lifestyles.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts on local communities.</p>

