

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	McCone Electric Maintenance LUL
Proposed Implementation Date:	2012
Proponent:	McCone Electric Co-Op
Location:	Distribution lines under easement within Eastern Land Office Jurisdiction
County:	Custer, Dawson, Garfield, McCone, Prairie, Richland and Rosebud County

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

McCone Electric Co-Op has filed for a 10 year land use license from the DNRC Eastern Land Office for the purpose of maintenance and upkeep of all electrical lines under easement within the land office boundaries. This provision is provided to electrical utility companies which choose to file for the minimum one foot easement for lines. The licensed area will be for 20 ft total width with 10 feet on each side of the center line of the lines held under easement from the company.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

McCone Electric Co-Op has completed the land use license application for the lines within the ELO which they have acquired easements for. Due to the small scope of this project no public comment was sought.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

None

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A- Grant McCone Electric a Land Use License the maintenance electric lines which it holds easements for.

Alternative B- No Action

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

Alternative A- Issuance of this license could affect the vegetation community in the area of the project. Any access or disruption to the vegetative community would be minimal, due do infrequency of use. The vegetative community within the license varies from tract to tract.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Impact

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

Alternative A- There is no evidence of any threatened or endangered species within the scope of the project.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

Alternative A No historical sites have been noted within the scope of the project. Any unnoted historical or archeological sites should be undisturbed by the license activity due to minimal usage.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

Alternative A-No change to the landscape or aesthetics will occur due to the licensed activity.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

None

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Alternative A- Maintenance of electrical lines is inherently dangerous; any maintenance will be performed by trained professionals who accept the risk of the carrier. This should minimize any risk associated with the construction of the project.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

Alternative A- This project should add to the industrial, commercial, and agricultural activities in the area. This line will provide a ready source of electricity in a rural area.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

Alternative A- No significant impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

Alternative A- No Significant Impact

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

Alternative A- This project has the ability to generate revenue for the trust through the purchase of a 10 year land use license. The amount of this license will be set at rate of \$100.00 per year with a total of \$1000.00 for the project.

Alternative B- No Significant Impact

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V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative A

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

The proposed Land Use License for maintenance of electrical lines held under easement should not result in nor cause significant environmental impacts. The predicted environmental impacts should be adequately mitigated through the Eastern Land Office land use license stipulations and regulations. For these reasons an environmental assessment checklist is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action. The purchase of the proposed LUL will satisfy the trust fiduciary mandate.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS

More Detailed EA

No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Marc Aberg
	Title: ELO Lands Program Manager
Signature: /S/ Marc A. Aberg	Date: 1-19-2012