

# CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: 3 phase power line	Proposed Implementation Date: Summer of 2012
Proponent: Sheridan Electric Co-op Inc.	
Type and Purpose of Action: Sheridan Electric has requested a Land Use License (LUL) to install an overhead line (3 phase power) across State land to service an oil well located on adjacent private lands. The proposed overhead line would cross the N2NE4 of S36 – T34N – R56E. It is anticipated that 9 poles and 8 anchors would be placed on the State land. Sheridan Electric has paid the \$25.00 application fee. Sheridan Electric would also be required to pay a onetime rental fee of \$250.00 and submit application for a permanent ROW easement.	
Location: N2NE4 of Sec. 36 - Twp. 34N - Rge. 56E.	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.	Sheridan Electric has requested a Land Use License (LUL) from the Glasgow Unit Office of the MT DNRC to install an overhead line across State land to service an oil well located on adjacent private lands.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	No other governmental agencies have jurisdiction regarding the proposed Land Use License on State land.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	<p>Action Alternative: Approve the Land Use License application from Sheridan Electric Co-op to install an overhead line across State land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Deny the Land Use License application from Sheridan Electric Co-op to install an overhead line across State land.</p>

## II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	<p style="text-align: center;">N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)</p> <p>There are no fragile, compactable, or unstable soils present near the project area. No unusual geologic features are present near the project area.</p> <p>Action: Temporary impacts to the geology or soil characteristics located directly within the overhead line's route may occur. The impacts would be only within the project area and no long term impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the geology or soil characteristics would occur.</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	<p>The project area does not cross any areas with surface water resources, nor does the area contain any significant groundwater resources.</p> <p>Action: Impacts to the water quality, quantity, and/or distribution of surface and ground water on or</p>

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water quality?	<p>around the project area are not anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the water quality, quantity, and/or distribution would occur.</p>
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	<p>The project area is not located in an air quality regulation zone or airshed.</p> <p>Action: The air quality may or may not be temporarily reduced during installation. Small amounts of pollutants from machinery and particulates from the disturbance of the areas soil may be produced. The possible reduction in air quality would be minimal, and air quality would quickly return to normal levels.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the air quality would occur.</p>
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	<p>No rare plants or cover types are present within the project area. A Montana Natural Heritage Program list of plant "species of concern" and "potential species of concern", within the project area's township, has been attached. The list does not identify any "species of concern" or "potential species of concern".</p> <p>Action: Temporary disturbances to the organic cropland located within the proposed project area would occur.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the vegetation cover, quantity, and/or quality would occur.</p>
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	<p>The site is not known to be utilized substantially by important wildlife, birds, and/or fish species.</p> <p>Action: Important wildlife, birds, and/or fish species utilization of this area is not anticipated to be impacted by the proposed action.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the utilization of this area by important wildlife, birds, and/or fish species would occur.</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>No federally listed or endangered species or identified habitats are present within the proposed project area. No wetlands are present. A Montana Natural Heritage Program list of terrestrial, avian, and aquatic "species of concern" and "potential species of concern", within the project area's township, has been attached. None of the species on the attached lists are known to substantially utilize the project area.</p> <p>Action: No impacts to unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources would occur.</p>
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological	<p>The site has a history of disturbances from annual</p>

## II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

resources present?	<p>small grain production. No historical, archaeological, and/or paleontological sites or resources are known to exist on or directly under the surface of the proposed action area.</p> <p>Action: The proposed action would not affect any known historical, archaeological, and/or paleontological sites and/or resources within the action area.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts will occur to any historical, archaeological, and/or paleontological sites or resources.</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>The topography consists of rolling plains utilized for small grain production. Numerous overhead lines already exist in the surrounding area and have become a common part of the area's landscape.</p> <p>Action: The area's aesthetics would be slightly impacted by the addition of an overhead line. The area is not considered a populated or scenic area. The overhead line would not emit excessive noise or light.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the areas aesthetics would occur.</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>The area does not contain limited resources. Nearby activities consist of farming and ranching operations and oil production.</p> <p>Action: No impacts to the demands of environmental resources such as land, water, air, and/or energy resources are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the demands of environmental resources such as land, water, air, and/or energy resources would occur.</p>
13.OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	<p>Action: No impacts to studies, plans, and/or projects pertinent to this area are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to studies, plans, and/or projects would occur.</p>

## III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	<p>The proposed project would create human health and/or safety risks associated with the installation and maintenance of the overhead line.</p> <p>Action: The employer and employee identify these risks as occupational hazards. These risks will only be present during installation and maintenance of the proposed overhead line.</p>

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	No Action: No impacts to human health and/or safety risks would occur.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	<p>The area is primarily used for farming and ranching activities and oil production. Besides the production of oil, commercial and industrial activities are limited near the project area.</p> <p>Action: Sheridan Electric would increase their customer base and the oil company located on the adjacent private lands would receive electricity from the installation of the overhead line.</p> <p>No Action: No action would prevent the oil company located on the adjacent fee lands from receiving electricity until an alternative power supply was found.</p>
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	<p>Action: No impacts to quantity and distribution of employment are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to quantity and distribution of employment would occur.</p>
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	<p>Action: No impacts to the state tax base and/or tax revenue are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the state tax base and/or tax revenues would occur.</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>Action: No impacts to the level of demand for road use or government services are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the level of demand for road use or government services would occur.</p>
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	<p>There are no known zoning or management plans in affect in the project area.</p> <p>Action: No impacts to local environmental plans and goals are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to local environmental plans and goals would occur.</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>The tract of State land is legally accessible. No wilderness areas are located near the proposed project area.</p> <p>Action: No impacts to recreational quality or recreational opportunities of the project area and/or surrounding lands are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the quality of recreational and wilderness activities would occur.</p>
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	<p>Action: No impacts to the density and/or distribution of population and housing are anticipated.</p> <p>No Action: No impacts to the density and/or distribution of population and housing would occur.</p>

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22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	Action: No impacts to the area's social structures, native/traditional lifestyles, or communities are anticipated.  No Action: No impacts to social structures, native/traditional lifestyles, or communities would occur.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	Action: No impacts to the area's cultural uniqueness and/or diversity are anticipated.  No Action: No impacts to the area's cultural uniqueness and/or diversity would occur.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	Action: The State trust has received money for the \$25.00 application fee and would receive a onetime \$250.00 rental fee for the LUL. No other impacts are anticipated.  No Action: No impacts to the social and economic circumstances would occur and the State trust would not receive the additional \$250.00 revenue.

EA Checklist Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew Poole (Land Use Specialist)

Date: July 3, 2012

## IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Proceed with Action Alternative. The line will benefit the oil well located on State.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	No significant impacts are identified.
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:     R. Hoyt Richards         Glasgow Unit Manager      
Name Title

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date: July 3, 2012