

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: High pressure water pipeline.	Proposed Implementation Date: Spring 2013
Proponent: TAQA North USA, 201 26 th Street E #200, Williston, North Dakota, 58801-3086	
Type and Purpose of Action: TAQA North USE has made application to place a high pressure water injection pipeline from Joyes State 4 oil well site on Sec. 16 Twp. 37N Rge. 57E to a water injection system located on Sec. 17 Twp. 37N Rge. 57E. The water pipeline will cross State land Sec. 16 Twp. 37N Rge. 57E located in Sheridan County. The high pressure water pipeline will start at an existing oil well/tank battery, identified as Joyes State 4, travel south-west then straight west to an injection system located on deeded land. The proposed project will improve the movement of water from the oil well located on State of Montana owned lands. The pipeline is 2,241 feet in length crossing the NE4NW4 & NW4NW4.	
Location: N2NW4, 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 has made application to place a high pressure water pipeline across State land to deeded land located on Sec. 17 Twp. 37N Rge. 57E. TAQA USA has contacted the surface lessee Aldon Joyce concerning the high pressure water pipeline project. The surface lessee has completed a Surface Lessee Notice of Settlement of Damages Form for this project. Damages are expected and the surface lessee Aldon Joyce will be compensated for the surface damages.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The other government agencies with jurisdiction for this project are the Montana Board of Oil and Gas, Billings Office, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Real Estate Management Bureau, Helena Office
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant a permit to TAQA North USA to construct a high pressure water pipeline on State land. No Action Alternative: Deny a permit to TAQA North USA to construct a high pressure water pipeline on State land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	Action Alternative: This type of project will impact the silty/clay loam soils on the water pipeline route. The impacts are minimal and the pipeline route will continue to produce small grain and pulse crops. The impacted area will have topsoil replaced over the buried pipeline.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the soils on the land under this alternative.
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?	Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts on the water quality, quantity and distribution associated with this tract of state land. The project area contains no surface water resources. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to water resources under this alternative.
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	Action Alternative: The project will have minimal impacts on the air quality of the land involved with the project. The project will produce some dirt particles to become air borne from the construction equipment that will install the high pressure water pipeline. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the air quality under this alternative.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	Action Alternative: The high pressure water pipeline installation may impact standing crops on the pipeline route, depending on time of year for installation. The topsoil will be replaced upon pipeline installation and project site will continue to produce dryland agriculture crops. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the vegetation under this alternative.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	Action Alternative: This type of activity will not disturb habitat on the State land. The area of impact is small in scope and there are no wildlife or bird habitat sites located on the pipeline route. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the wildlife habitat resources associated with the land under this alternative.
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?	Action Alternative: The project area contains no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the environmental resources under this alternative.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	Action Alternative: There are no known historical or archaeological sites on the areas to be impacted by this project. The state land was inspected by Randy Dirkson Land Use Specialist, Glasgow Unit Office, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. This tract was broken many years ago for dryland agriculture, at which time any type of sites would have been destroyed. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to historical or archaeological sites under this alternative.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
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>Action Alternative: The project site is located in a rural area and is visible to the general public from a county road, next to the project site. The project will have no impacts to the aesthetic values associated with the State land involved with this project.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the aesthetics associated with the land under this project.</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>Action Alternative: The project will place no demands on environmental resources of land, water, air or energy.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the environmental resources of land, water, air or energy under this alternative.</p>
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	<p>Action Alternative: The pipeline installation will not impact other projects or plans that may be occurring on the state land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the plans, studies or other projects on the land under this alternative.</p>

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	<p>Action Alternative; The pipeline installation has various human health and safety risks. There may be some safety risks for workers during the pipeline construction. This should be mitigated by the employment of professionals with the proper safety efforts.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to human health or safety under this alternative.</p>
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	<p>Action alternative: The project will have no impacts to the agricultural activities that are occurring on the land. The current agriculture activities occurring on this tract are dryland agriculture production of crops. If standing crops are destroyed with the pipeline installation, the surface lessee will be compensated monetarily.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the agricultural activities under this alternative.</p>
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the quantity and distribution of employment.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the quantity and distribution of employment under this alternative.</p>
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or	<p>Action Alternative: The project may create additional tax revenue for Sheridan county.</p>

eliminate tax revenue?	No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the local and state tax base under this alternative.
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 Alternative: The project will place no demands for government services. There will be some additional vehicle traffic from the company that constructs the pipeline on the county road associated with this tract.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts for government services under this alternative.</p>
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact locally adopted environmental plans and goals.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to locally adopted environmental plans and goals under this alternative.</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>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the hunting or hiking recreational values associated with this tract of State land. The recreational values are very limited on dryland agriculture.</p> <p>No Action Alternative; There would be no impacts to the hunting or hiking recreational values associated with the land under this alternative.</p>
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the density and distribution of the population and housing on this rural area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the density and distribution of the population and housing under this alternative.</p>
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the social structures of the local communities. This community around the project area is a rural farming and ranching community. The closest town to the project area is the community of Westby Montana located fifteen miles south-east of project area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the social structures under this alternative.</p>
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the land. The project will not impact the rural cultural farming and ranching activities.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the cultural uniqueness and diversity under this alternative.</p>
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	Action Alternative: The project provides some economic benefit to the local community businesses that supply products to the company that will be installing the high pressure water pipelines.

