DSL-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Install a new water pipeline for human comsumption.	Proposed Implementation Date: 2013
Proponent: Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority, P O Box 577, Culbertson, Montana 59218	
Type and Purpose of Action: The applicant proposes to install a new 8 inch water pipeline for human consumption. The area of impact will be 30 feet in width, 15 feet on either side of a center line. The total area of impact will be 3.55 acres more or less. The purpose of the Right of Way Easement is for the pipeline construction, inspection, operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of the underground water pipeline and necessary structures for use in conjunction therewith.	
Location: W2SE4 Section 21 Township 35 North, Range 55 East, W2NW4, Section 28 Township 35 North Range 55 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.	Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority has submitted a Right of Way Easement application to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Glasgow Unit Office. Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority has submitted the Right of Way Easement application to place an 8inch water pipeline on State land. The purpose of the water pipeline is for human consumption. Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority has also contacted the surface lessee and explained the purpose for the Right of Way Easement application.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	Other government agencies that have jurisdiction for this type of project are United States Army Corp. of Engineers, United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource and Conservation Service, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, United States Fish & Wildlife Service, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, Sheridan County Conservation District and Sheridan County Commissioners, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Water Rights Division.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant a Right of Way Easement to Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority to place a water pipeline on State land. No Action Alternative: Deny a Right of Way Easement to Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority to place a water pipeline on State land.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
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?	Action Alternative: This type of project will alter the surface soils on the State land The surface soils will be replaced upon project completion. These soils will continue to produce dryland agriculture crops and native grass vegetation. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no changes to soils on the State land.
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 water pipeline project will improve the water quality standards for rural areas. The water will supply a continuous source of water for rural area water consumers. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to water quality, quantity and distribution.
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	Action Alternative: This type of project on the State land will have minimal impact to the air quality. There will be some dust that will become air borne from the construction of the water pipeline. No Action Alternative: Under this

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	alternative there will be no impacts to air quality.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	Action Alternative: The project area contains soil types for producing native rangeland plants and small grain and pulse crops. If the pipeline is constructed during the growing season some of the native grass and dryland agriculture crops will be destroyed by the pipeline construction. The area of impact is small and there will be minimal damage to one year's plant production for the native rangeland and small grain or pulse crop. The area of impact should continue to produce native grass plant species. The dryland agriculture will continue to produce small grain or pulse crops upon project completion. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the small grain plant communities on the State land.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	Action Alternative: The State land contains habitat types for upland bird and whitetail deer. The project area contains various habitat type resources. The habitat resources will see minimal impacts from the pipeline project. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the various types of wildlife and upland birds that use the State land habitat resources.
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 area of impact contains no unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the environmental resources.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL	Action Alternative: The area of impact

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	contains no known historical or archaeological sites. The area of impact was inspected by Montana Department of Natural Resource & Conservation personnel. There were no findings of sites on the project area. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to historical or archaeological sites under this alternative.
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?	Action Alternative: This type of project on State land will not impact the aesthetics of the surrounding area. The project is located next to a highway. The project will be visible to the general public during pipeline construction. The project is short term and will have no impacts of noise or light. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to aesthetics associated with the State land.
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?	Action Alternative: The writer of this document does not know if this project will place demands for limited water resources of the Missouri River. Missouri River is the source of water for the Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no demands placed on environmental resources of land, water, air or energy.
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	Action Alternative: This type of project will not impact the other plans or studies that Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has on the State land. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	to the plans or studies that Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has on the State land.

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?	Action Alternative: The installation of a water pipeline has various human health and safety risks. There may be some safety risks for workers during the construction of the project. This should be mitigated by using trained professionals with proper safety efforts. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to human health or safety.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	Action Alternative: The project will have minimal to no impact to the current conservation reserve program activities that may be occurring on the State land. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to agricultural activities on the State land.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	Action Alternative: The project may create jobs for the construction companies that will construct the water pipeline. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to quantity and distribution of employment under this alternative.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	Action Alternative: The project will have no impacts on the local and state tax base and tax revenues. No Action Alternative: There will 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?	Action Alternative: The project will place no additional demands for government services. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no demand for government services.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	Action Alternative: The project will need to clear State, County and National management plans before implementation. No Action Alternative: Under this type of alternative there will be no impacts on locally adopted environmental plans and goals.
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?	Action Alternative: The area of impact is dryland agriculture and native rangeland acreage. The project will have no impact to the minimal recreational values possibly associated with this tract of State land. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the recreational values associated with the State land under this alternative.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	Action Alternative: The project will not impact the density and distribution of population and housing. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the density and distribution of population and housing.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	Action Alternative: The project will not disrupt the traditional lifestyles of the local community. The water project should enhance the day to day lives of the rural communities by supplying a reliable water source. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the social structures

	under this alternative.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	Action Alternative: The project will not impact the cultural uniqueness and diversity of this rural area. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the cultural uniqueness and diversity under this alternative.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	Action Alternative: The installation of a water pipeline will improve the social and economic circumstances for the residents of Northeastern Montana communities. The project will provide a reliable source of water for rural areas of Northeastern Montana. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the economic circumstances under this alternative.

EA Checklist Prepared By: /S/ Date: 10/1/2013
Randy Dirkson Land Use Specialist

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action Alternative: Grant a Right of Way Easement to Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority to construct, maintain, and replace a water pipeline on State land. This alternative will provide additional revenue for the School Trust in the amount of $1,090.00.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	No negative impacts anticipated.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: [ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved By: s/Matthew Poole\s Unit Manager

Name Title

Date: October 2nd, 2013