

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Oneok Pipeyard LUL
Proposed Implementation Date:	2012
Proponent:	Oneok Bakken Pipeline L.L.C
Location:	NW4SW4, Sec 36, T16N-R54E
County:	Dawson County

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Oneok Bakken Pipeline LLC (henceforth referred to as proponent) has contacted the DNRC Eastern Land Office requesting a land use license for the purpose of constructing a temporary pipe storage yard on the tract of state land mentioned above. The proponent has submitted a form DS-401 along with the application fee.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

The Eastern Land Office staff has been working with land agents for the proponent throughout 2011. The selection of this tract of state trust land as a potential pipe yard is due to the immediate access to a BNSF rail siding and State Highway 200' on the tract as well as suitable terrain. A field inspection of the site was conducted on January 26th, 2012. The time of use requested by the proponent is a term of 3 years beginning in 2012 and ending in 2015.

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

None

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A- Grant a land use license to the proponent for the purpose of creating a temporary pipe storage yard on the tract of state trust land mentioned above

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- Moderate to extensive soil disturbance may take place in the area of construction. The construction plan calls for topsoil to be stripped and stockpiled separate from spoil material. Upon restoration all removed topsoil will be replaced. No fragile, compactable or unstable soils were noted within the project area.

Alternative B- No 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- Any impact to surface water resources should be minimal in nature, Construction techniques to limit any runoff will be utilized. Ground water resources should not be affected.

Alternative B- No 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- Construction could be expected to temporarily impact local ambient air-quality. This impact would be produced through fugitive dust as well as emission from construction equipment. This temporary localized impact should only take place on this tract of trust land during clearing, construction and restoration processes. Fugitive dust would be controlled through applying water to the site as well as revegetating the disturbed areas in a prompt time frame after usage is complete. Impact from construction would be temporary and should not result in significant impacts in air quality.

Alternative B- No 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- Potential disruption to the vegetative community within the area of construction could be expected. This disruption would come in the action of clearing and construction. Current plant species which occupy the construction area include Western Wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), Green Needlegrass (*Stipa viridula*), Prairie Sandreed (*Calamovilfa longifolia*), Needle and Thread (*Stipa comata*), Prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria pyramidata*), Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), Threadleaf Sedge (*Carex filifolia*), Sandberg Bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), Silver Sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*), Fringed Sagewort (*Artemisia frigida*), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), Downy Brome (*Bromus tectorum*) and Japanese Brome (*Bromus japonicus*). Upon completion of use of the site, the affected areas will have stored topsoil replaced, contoured and reseeded to a native seeding mixture. The ELO field staff will choose the native seed mixture and seeding rate on this site. The ELO field staff will also monitor the restoration outcomes to assure proper vegetative re-establishment.

Alternative B- No 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- This project may disrupt wildlife habitat for a number of species. Species which may have habitat in the area of the project may include but are not limited to deer, antelope, rodents, coyotes, foxes, amphibians, raptors, migratory and prairie birds. Upon project completion habitats and wildlife utilization should return to normal levels.

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- No evidence of threatened or endangered species was noted within the project area.

Alternative B- No Impact

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

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

Alternative A- No cultural archeological or paleontological resources have been noted within the scope of the requested license area. Should any such resources be discovered during the construction of this project, licensing requires termination of activities as well as a mandate to immediately notify both the DNRC Staff Archeologist and the State Historical Preservation Officer.

Alternative B- No 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- Alteration of the viewshed may occur during the construction, licensed use and restoration activities. The mentioned tracts of land are visible from State Highway 200. Construction is not planned on any prominent features. Construction activities will temporarily alter the vegetative community which should recover fully after restoration is complete. No above ground structures are included within the land use license request. Noise levels may also be increased during the construction licensed use and restoration activities. These noise levels may be increased moderately from ambient levels. These noise increases should be minimal in amplitude. These noise levels may disrupt some wildlife within the immediate area of construction. The construction area is a rural location.

Alternative B- No 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 limited natural resources should be required in addition to that which is stated within the proposed license.

Alternative B- No 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

- *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- There may be potential health and safety risks associated with this project. These risks are accepted by trained employees as occupational risks. These risks can be mitigated with proper training and on site safety protocols.

Alternative B- No Impact

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

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

Alternative A- This proposed project should have a long term positive effect on industrial and commercial activities through increasing demand for supplies and services within the local communities. This project may have a short term negative effect on agricultural activities and production. These negative effects should only last through the construction, licensed use and restoration phases of the proposed project. The agricultural effects will be mitigated through issuing a lease record change for the current lessee to address the decrease in available AUM's

Alternative B- No 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- This project has the potential to create jobs with further development possibilities. The number of jobs created is unknown at this time.

Alternative B- No 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- This project has the potential to increase local tax revenues the amount of which is unknown at this time.

Alternative B- No 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- Traffic levels could increase substantially during the construction, use and reclamation phases of this project. This increase should only be temporary

Alternative B- No 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- There is no noted adopted environmental plans or goals within the boundary of the license requested.

Alternative B- No 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- This proposed project and land use license request should have only a minimal effect on access to recreational and wilderness activities. These phases will be short term in nature and should have no lasting effect on recreational activities. The size of the requested license is for an area of approximately 20 acres.

Alternative B- No 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- There is potential for a temporary increase in population as well as housing demand.

Alternative B- No Impact

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Alternative A- This project has the potential to have a minimal and temporary disruption of native or traditional lifestyles. This disruption should cease once the use of the licensed area is completed.

Alternative B- No 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 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 would require the purchase of a land use license across this tract of Trust Land. The price per acre of this easement would be set at \$1000.00 per year of licensed term. The total license revenue to the trust would be \$60,780.

Alternative B- Additional revenue to the trust through the sale of a land use license would not be realized.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Scott Aye	Date: 1-30-12
	Title: Land Use Specialist	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative A

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

The granting of the requested land use license state owned trust lands for the proposed Oneok Bakken Pipeline pipe yard project should not result in nor cause significant environmental impacts. The predicted environmental impacts have been identified and mitigation measures addressed in the environmental analysis checklist as well as site specific land use license terms and stipulations. The predicted impacts will be adequately mitigated through stipulations of the license. The proposed action satisfies the trusts fiduciary mandate and ensures the long term productivity of the land. An environmental assessment checklist is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

EIS
 More Detailed EA
 No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Chris Pileski
	Title: Eastern Land Office; Area Manager
Signature: /S/ Chris Pileski	Date: