DSL-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Install a buried gas pipeline on State land.	Proposed Implementation Date: Fall 2013
Proponent: Oneok Rockies Midstream, 906 15th St, Sidney Montana 59270	
Type and Purpose of Action: Oneok Rockies Midstream has made a Right of Way Easement application to place a buried low pressure gas pipe line across State lands. The gas pipeline will be used to move gas from various oil wells in Roosevelt county to other facilities. The gas pipeline will be eight inch poly pipeline buried sufficiently below the soil frost line for year round use. The gas pipeline length on the State land will be 159.88 rods more or less.	
Location: S2SW4, Section 36 Township 30 North Range 56 East	County: Roosevelt

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Oneok Rockies Midstream contacted the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Glasgow Unit Office and has completed a Right of Way Easement application to place a buried 8 inch poly gas pipeline on State land. The surface lessee of the State land involved with this project has been contacted. The surface lessee has been compensated for surface damages. There may be other agencies or groups that have involvement with this project that the writer of this document is not aware of.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	Other government agencies that may have jurisdiction for this type of project are Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Oil and Gas Division, United States Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, and Natural Resource and Conservation Service, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, United States Army Corp. of Engineers, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, and other entities that the writer of this document may not be aware of.
	Action Alternative: Grant a Right of

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Way Easement to Oneok Partners to place a gas pipeline on State land. No Action Alternative: Deny a Right of Way Easement to Oneok Partners to place a gas 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 silty loam and clay soils on the State land. The top soil will be removed for the installation of the gas pipeline. The topsoil will be replaced after the pipeline installation is completed. The soils will continue to produce small grain and pulse crops. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, there will be no impacts to the silty and clay 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 project will move gas from various oil well sites in Roosevelt County Montana to a gas facility location. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, there will be no impacts to water quality, quantity or 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: The gas pipeline will have no impacts to the air quality on the State land. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the air quality.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types	Action Alternative: There are no vegetative plant communities on this tract of land. Area is dryland agriculture used for small grain

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
present?	production. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to any type of native rangeland vegetation.
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 very minimal habitat resources for wildlife and upland birds. The Montana National Heritage Programs identified the following species of birds found in this portion of Roosevelt county, Leconte's sparrow, Nelson's sparrow, Sedge Wren and Bobolink. These are not species of concern in this area. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no impacts to the habitat resources associated with the State land.
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 known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources. The State land contains no wetlands or sensitive animal or plant species. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there would be no impacts to the unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	Action Alternative: The area of impact contains no known historical or archaeological sites. Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation personnel found no historical or archaeological sites on or near project area. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the historical or archaeological sites.
11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature?	Action Alternative: This type of project will have no impacts to the

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	aesthetics associated with the State land. The pipeline construction will be visible to the general public from a county road. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the aesthetics of 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: This type of project will place no demands on environmental resources of land, water, air, or energy. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the 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 have no impact to other studies, plans or projects that Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation may have in place on the State land. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the other projects that may be occurring 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 gas pipelines has various human health and safety risks. The risks are understood by the employer and employee as occupational hazards. The impacts will be mitigated by the use of professional employees in the pipeline construction business. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts on human health and safety under this alternative.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND	Action Alternative: The project will

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	have no impact to the current activities that may be occurring on the State land. The production of small grains or pulse crops will continue upon pipeline completion. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the livestock grazing activities that are occurring 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 pipeline construction companies that will construct the gas pipeline. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the employment of the area under this alternative.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	Action Alternative: The project may have impacts on the local and state tax base and tax revenues. The writer of this document is not aware of what types of taxable values can be placed on a gas pipeline. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the local and state tax base.
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: There will be no demands for government services under this alternative.
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 have no impacts on environmental plans or goals. There are no other management plans on this project other than those implemented by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to locally adopted environmental plans or goals under this alternative.

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 has minimal recreational values, of which would possibly be bird hunting. The project will have no impacts on the recreational values of the surrounding lands. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the recreational activities 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 would be no impacts to population and housing under this alternative.
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 local communities are rural agriculture orientated and current oil activity has not altered the traditional lifestyles. No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts on local communities.
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 the State land. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the State land under this alternative.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	Action Alternative: The installation of a gas pipeline may improve local economics. The local community may supply products to the company that installs the gas pipeline. No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts to economic circumstances of this area under this type of alternative.

EA Checklist Prepared By: /s/ Date: 10/25/13
Randy Dirkson Land Use Specialist

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action alternative was selected:
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	The construction of a gas pipeline will have minimal impacts to the State land natural resources.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: [ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Prepared By: s/Matthew Poole\s Date: 11/12/13
Matthew Poole, Unit Manager