

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Install a gas pipeline across School Trust land.	Proposed Implementation Date: Spring 2017
Proponent: Oneok Rockies Midstream, 896 25 <sup>th</sup> St. SE, Sidney, MT 59270	
Type and Purpose of Action: The applicant proposes to install an 8 inch gas flow line across School trust lands to collect gas from the Star Coulee South Multiwell Pad, so that it does not need to be flared off at the well. The proposed action would be temporarily authorized under a Land Use License and then converted to a Right of Way.	
Location: SE4SE4 Sec. 27 Twp. 27N Rge. 57E	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.	Construction of the Star Coulee South Multiwell Pad was completed by Kraken Oil & Gas LLC in 2016, with approval of the project by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). A gas pipeline needs to be installed in order to transport natural gas from the well site to an offsite mainline. Oneok Rockies Midstream was tasked with securing the right of way for the pipeline where it crosses School trust land.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The impacted tract is under the Capital Buildings Trust. The DNRC manages the surface and sub-surface of the tract, and would need to grant permission to the proponent to begin installation of the pipeline. The Minerals Management Bureau of DNRC has final jurisdiction over the project.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant permission to Oneok Rockies Midstream to install a gas flow-line across School Trust land.  No Action Alternative: Deny permission to Oneok Rockies Midstream to install a gas flow-line across School Trust land.

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II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
<p>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?</p>	<p>The area of impact contains a Havrelon-Trembles complex of soils, with 0 to 2% slopes. These soils are neither fragile nor unstable.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The proposed pipeline crosses a relatively flat area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no changes to soils on the School Trust land.</p>
<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 water quality?</p>	<p>There are no important surface or groundwater resources within the area of impact. The area of impact is outside of the flood-plain of the nearby Missouri River. The area of impact is relatively flat, so minimal runoff to the Missouri River occurs.</p> <p>Action Alternative: Installation of the water pipeline will have no impact on drinking or ambient water quality in the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, there will be no impacts to water quality, quantity and distribution.</p>
<p>6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: This type of project on the School Trust land will have minimal impact to the air quality.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to air quality.</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered?</p>	<p>Currently, the area of impact has no/little vegetative community, as construction of the Star Coulee South</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
<p>Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>Multiwell Pad has cleared the area of vegetation. No rare plants or cover types are present.</p> <p>Action Alternative: No impact to the current condition of the vegetative community is expected.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the plant communities on the School Trust land.</p>
<p>8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>The School Trust land provides habitat for upland birds, mule deer and whitetail deer. The area of impact contains no critical habitat for important wildlife species.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The area of impact will see a slight degradation in habitat quality during the installation of the pipeline, but these impacts should be mitigated upon reclamation.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the possible use of the School Trust land as wildlife habitat.</p>
<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>	<p>The following species of special concern occupy this area seasonally or year-round: Hoary Bat, Little Brown Myotis, Sprague's Pipit, Golden Eagle, Piping Plover, Whooping Crane, Red-headed Woodpecker, Least Tern, and Greater Short-Horned Lizard. There are no critical or sensitive habitats within the area of concern.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The proposed pipeline will have no impact on unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the environmental resources.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL</p>	<p>The area of impact contains no</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?

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Action Alternative: There will be no impact to historical or archaeological sites under this alternative.

No Action Alternative: There will be no impact 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?

The area of impact is not visible from nearby county roads, and the public generally cannot see the area, due to there being no legal public access, other than from the Missouri River.

Action Alternative: The proposed pipeline will be underground and will have no impact on the aesthetics of the area.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to aesthetics associated with the School Trust 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 proposed pipeline would slightly increase demand/use of clean water in the area to be used in stock tanks.

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?

There are no other plans, projects or studies on the tract that would be impacted by the project. The tract is managed for typical agricultural activities (livestock grazing).

Action Alternative: This project will not impact any other plans or studies that Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has on the School Trust land.

No Action Alternative: Under this

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

alternative there will be no impacts to the plans or studies that Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has on the School Trust land.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
<p>14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: During installation, there may be inherent safety risks associated with the trenching. Upon installation, a new pipeline will not increase health and safety risks in the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to human health or safety.</p>
<p>15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?</p>	<p>The tract is managed for livestock grazing.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will have no impact on available forage or livestock use, as the area of impact has already been disturbed during installation of the well pad.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to agricultural activities on the School Trust land.</p>
<p>16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project may create some short-term jobs in the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to quantity and distribution of employment under this alternative.</p>
<p>17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will have minimal impact on the local and state tax base and tax revenues.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be</p>

	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 slightly increase vehicle traffic during pipeline installation, but no additional demands will be placed on governmental services.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no additional demand for government services.</p>
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	<p>The proponent has worked with the Minerals Management Bureau in developing the plan for the pipeline and the submission of the application.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project will need to clear DNRC management plans before implementation.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this type of alternative there will be no impacts on locally adopted environmental plans and goals.</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 proposed pipeline will have minimal impact on recreation potential on the School Trust land, as the only legal public access to the tract is by way of the Missouri River.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the recreational values associated with the School Trust 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 population and housing.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the density and distribution of population and housing.</p>
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or	Action Alternative: The project will not disrupt the traditional lifestyles of the local community.

communities possible?	No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the social structures of the area 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 this pipeline on School Trust land would improve the safety and operation of the Kraken well. Revenue to the Trust will increase with the collection of natural gas made possible with the pipeline.  No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the economic circumstances under this alternative.

EA Checklist Prepared By: s/Jack Medicott\s Date: 4/4/17  
Jack Medicott Land Use Specialist

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	No significant or negative impacts anticipated
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: Matthew Poole Glasgow Unit Manager  
Name Title

s/Matthew Poole\s Date: April 5, 2017  
Signature