

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	
Project Name: Temporary work space outside of existing ROW for installation of a natural gas pipeline.	Proposed Implementation Date: September 2019
Proponent: Cenex Pipeline LLC, 803 Highway 212 South, Laurel, MT 59044	
Type and Purpose of Action: The applicant has applied for Land Use License (LUL) to use a temporary work space outside of an existing ROW to install a natural gas pipeline by boring through a butte within the path of the ROW that is too steep for reasonable access by heavy equipment.	
Location: W2NW4 Section 36, Township 27N, Range 59E	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.	Terry Fasteen of KLJ Engineering, contracted by Cenex, contacted the Glasgow Unit Office regarding how to get around the butte. Options discussed included re-routing the ROW and contouring the butte to a point where it could be accessed with heavy equipment. It was decided that Cenex would bore through the butte, but to do so would need a LUL for the necessary space outside the ROW to do so. Mr. Fasteen then submitted the LUL Application to headquarters in Helena, along with a copy to Glasgow Unit Office staff.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) has sole jurisdiction over the land surface within the area of impact. The project will need to be approved by DNRC staff in the Glasgow Unit office.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action Alternative: Grant the applicant a LUL for the temporary workspace on School Trust land. No Action Alternative: Deny the application for an LUL on 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 soil within the area of impact consists of a Zahill-Cabba-Cambert complex of soils with 8 to 15% slopes. This soil is not fragile or unstable. No unusual geographic features are present and no special reclamation considerations are necessary.</p> <p>Action Alternative: There will be some soil compaction with heavy equipment operation during use of the workspace, but the area has been disturbed in the past with installation of a nearby pipeline.</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 water resources present within the area of impact.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The proposed project will have no impact on water quality, quantity or distribution.</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>This project is not influenced by any air quality regulations or zones. No pollutants will be produced.</p> <p>Action Alternative: This type of project on the School Trust land will have no impact on air quality.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to air quality.</p>

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?

The current vegetative community consists primarily of native grasses, forbs and shrubs, some of it artificially seeded as reclamation of a nearby pipeline installed in the past. There are no rare plant species present.

Action Alternative: Destruction of vegetation will occur within the workspace. A reclamation requirement of any license issued would be that the applicant re-seed and establish a good vegetation stand using a seed mix determined by Glasgow Unit Office staff, reflecting the vegetation already present.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the plant communities on the School Trust land.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?

The School Trust land provides habitat for deer as well as upland and grassland birds.

Action Alternative: During installation of the line and use of the workspace, the noise and activity going on in the area will keep wildlife from using the area as habitat. After installation and reclamation of the area, use of the area by wildlife should return to normal levels.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the possible use of the School Trust land as wildlife habitat.

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?

The area of impact does not contain fragile or critical habitat, or wetlands. The following are species of concern that may use the area seasonally: Great Blue Heron, Piping Plover, Bobolink, Whooping Crane and Least Tern.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Action Alternative: The area of impact has seen extensive disturbance in the past with installation of a nearby pipeline. Once the area has been reclaimed, there will likely be a slight degradation of habitat until re-seeded vegetation has become well-established.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the environmental resources on this School Trust land.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?

The area of impact contains no historical, archaeological or paleontological resources. A review of the cultural resource inventory completed in January 2007 shows that one isolated find was discovered and removed from the area of impact. However, this was determined to not be associated with any other cultural resources in the area, and there were no other resources discovered nearby.

Action Alternative: The project will have no impact on historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

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 proposed work is to be done on School Trust land that is legally inaccessible to the public and is not visible from the nearest county road.

Action Alternative: This workspace will not significantly change the aesthetics of the tract. There will already be construction and reclamation actions taking place on the previously-approved pipeline ROW, and this will essentially be slightly more of the same work.

No Action Alternative: Under this

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
	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?	<p>Environmental resources in the area are not specifically limited and are not affected by the proposed project. No nearby activities will affect the project.</p> <p>Action Alternative: The proposed project will place no demands on any environmental resources in the area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no demands placed on environmental resources of land, water, air or energy.</p>
13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	<p>There are currently no other studies, plans or projects on this tract of School Trust land.</p> <p>Action Alternative: This project will not impact any other plans or studies that DNRC has on this School Trust land.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the plans or studies that DNRC has on this School Trust land.</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>The operation and movement of heavy equipment and vehicles has inherent risks whether on School Trust land or not.</p> <p>Action Alternative: Use of this workspace would allow for increased room for operation of the heavy equipment used in installation of the pipeline.</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 area of impact is managed as grazing land and is leased as such.</p> <p>Action Alternative: Until reclamation efforts have been completed, this tract will have slightly less forage available to the lessee and his livestock.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no impacts to the grazing lease on this tract.</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 will not create nor impact any 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 no impacts on the local and state tax base and tax revenues.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the local and state tax base under this alternative.</p>
<p>18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: There would be no additional demand for governmental services.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this alternative there will be no additional demand for government services.</p>
<p>19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?</p>	<p>There are no special management plans in effect on the School Trust land. It is managed for typical agricultural activities (livestock grazing).</p> <p>Action Alternative: The project has cleared DNRC management plans.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: Under this type</p>

	<p>of alternative there will be no impacts on locally adopted environmental plans and goals.</p>
<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>	<p>This tract has almost no potential for recreation. There is no legal public access without securing adjacent landowner permission. No wilderness areas or additional public lands are accessed through this tract.</p> <p>Action Alternative: No changes to public land access or recreational potential would occur.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the recreational values associated with the School Trust land under this alternative.</p>
<p>21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?</p>	<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>
<p>22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not disrupt the traditional lifestyles of the local community.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the social structures under this alternative.</p>
<p>23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?</p>	<p>Action Alternative: The project will not impact the cultural uniqueness and diversity of this rural area.</p> <p>No Action Alternative: There will be no impacts to the cultural uniqueness and diversity under this alternative.</p>
<p>24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</p>	<p>The ROW for the Cenex pipeline has already been approved along the current line, and this temporary workspace will allow them to keep the line within the approved easement without having to change the ROW or do</p>

more extensive/destructive work in the area.

Action Alternative: Cenex will be able complete installation of the line more efficiently and there is slightly increased construction footprint.

No Action Alternative: Under this alternative, Cenex would be restricted to operating within their easement and would have to find other options to get around the butte within the path of their ROW.

EA Checklist Prepared By: s/Jack Medicott Date: 9/13/19
Jack Medicott Land Use Specialist

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Action
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	No significant impacts anticipated. Required reclamation of land shall reduce long term impacts.
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: September 13, 2019
Signature