

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Oneok Rockies Midstream Gathering Pipeline Right of way easement and LUL
Proposed Implementation Date:	2015
Proponent:	Oneok Rockies Midstream LLC
Location:	T25N-R58E-Sec 36
County:	Richland County

Definitions

Oneok- Oneok Rockies Midstream LLC
ELO- DNRC Eastern Land Office
NGL- Natural Gas Liquids

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Oneok Rockies Midstream LLC (henceforth referred to as Oneok) has requested a 50 foot wide right of way easement to cross state owned tracts listed in the location description with a 14" Natural Gas Liquids Pipeline. The total length of the requested right of way is 192.25 rods and encompasses approximately 3.64 acres. Oneok has also requested temporary construction space of 1.82 acres under a separate LUL.

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 Oneok throughout 2014-2015. This included preliminary project overviews, staking requests, route reviews, on ground surveys and reviews of the easement process. Oneok submitted an easement application for a section of State Trust Land within the project corridor. Oneok has also submitted Land Use License applications for temporary construction space as well as temporary existing road use to access the construction area.

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

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Montana Public Service Commission
Montana Historical Society
United States Fish and Wildlife Service:
 Section 7 Endangered Species Act
United States Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A- Grant right of way easement to Oneok for the purpose of installing operating and maintaining a 14" natural gas liquids pipeline. And grant a Land Use License for the purpose of temporary construction space and use of existing access roads.

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 along the pipeline route. This disturbance would be in relation to trenching and pipeline construction. Soils identified on the tract within the route of the pipeline generally has soil types of sandy gravel to silty . Most soils on state land are moderately stable. The construction plan calls for topsoil to be stripped and stockpiled separate from spoil material. Upon restoration all removed topsoil will be replaced. Trench and slope breaking devices as well as silt fences and straw bales will be used to prevent sub soil erosion. Construction sites will be continuously monitored to ensure proper restoration.

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- Minimal impact to water quality, quantity and distribution could be expected. Construction methods could increase soil compaction which could lead to increased runoff and slower soil absorption. Mitigation procedures would include de-compaction of the soil within the trench area and work space after construction completion to allow for improved drainage. All construction methods will be done in a way to minimize impacts to both ground and surface water sources. The proposed project would not cross any streams or waterbodies on State Trust Lands.

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 these tracts of trust land during clearing, construction and restoration processes. Fugitive dust would be controlled through applying water work areas as well as revegetating the disturbed areas in a prompt time frame after construction. 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. The current plant species which occupy the construction area is a tame pasture of Crested Wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*). Oneok has created a restoration plan to address disturbances to the plant community. Construction areas will have stored

topsoil replaced, contoured and reseeded to the tame species that is already present. Any noxious weed infestations caused by construction on state land will be the responsibility of the proponent to control. All weed plans will be submitted to the Richland County Weed Board for revisions and approval.

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 deer, elk, antelope, rodents, coyotes, foxes, mountain lions, rodents, amphibians, raptors, migratory and prairie birds. The majority of disruption would occur during the construction and reclamation phases of the project. 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- A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database shows no endangered threatened or sensitive species within the general area of the proposed project. The project is not located within Greater Sage Grouse General, Core, or Connectivity areas.

Alternative B- No Impact

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

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

Alternative A- A search of the TLMS database shows no noted historical archeological or paleontological resources within the proposed project area. A field survey was conducted and no historical, archeological or paleontological resources were noted.

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 clearing, construction and restoration activities. Some areas of the project are visible from county roads and state highways. Restoration of the plant community would be completed after the construction phase of the project Noise levels may also be increased during the clearing construction and restoration activities. These noise levels may be increased moderately from ambient levels. These noise increases should only be short term in duration. These noise levels may disrupt some wildlife within the immediate area of construction.

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- Limited land resources would be utilized in the short term; once reclamation is complete depleted resources would be restored.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.

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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 can be mitigated with proper training and on site safety protocols. Oneok will adhere to DOT Minimum Federal Safety Standards. Hydrostatic testing, corrosion and cathodic protection, internal inspection, and continuous monitoring will be employed to protect health and human safety. Oneok will also participate in state "one call" programs.

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 transportation capabilities for domestically produced natural gas liquids. This project may have a short term negative effect on agricultural activities and production. These negative effects should only last through the construction and restoration phases of the proposed project. Oneok has coordinated with the surface lessee to repair any damaged infrastructure (fences, cattle guards, stock water pipelines)

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 total amount of potential jobs created by this project is currently unknown.

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 is expected to increase tax revenue within counties crossed by the pipeline through issuance of property taxes, applicable local taxes, and payroll taxes collected from employees working in Montana. Expected tax revenue increase is not known at this time.

Alternative B- No impact additional tax revenues would not be realized.

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 slightly during the construction phase of this project. This increase should only be short term and 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 easement 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 easement request should have only a minimal effect on access to recreational and wilderness activities. These opportunities may be disrupted during construction and restoration phases of the project. These phases would be short term in nature and should have no lasting effect on recreational activities

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- No significant impacts expected

Alternative B- No Impact

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Alternative A- No significant impacts expected

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 right of way easement across these tracts of Trust Land. The price per rod of this easement would be set at \$150.00. The total easement revenue to the trust would be \$28,837.50. The price per acre for temporary construction space LUL will be set at \$500.00 per acre for a total of \$910.00. Total income to the trust is expected to be \$29,747.50

Alternative B- Additional revenue to the trust through the sale of a right of way easement would not be realized.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Scott Aye	Date: 3-9-2015
	Title: Land Use Specialist	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative A

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

The granting of the requested right of way easement and land use licenses across state owned trust lands for the proposed Oneok Rockies Midstream Gathering Pipeline should not result in nor cause significant environmental impacts. The predicted environmental impacts have been identified and mitigation measures addressed in the easement and license stipulations. The predicted impacts will be adequately mitigated through the construction and reclamation plans. 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: 3-9-2015