

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Aggregate Testing – Wickens Construction, Inc

Proposed

Implementation Date: July 2026

Proponent: Wickens Construction Inc.

Location: Township 17N, Range 17E, Section 16 – NW4SE4

County: Fergus County

Trust: Common Schools

Introduction: In January of 2025, the Minerals Management Bureau of the Forestry and Trust Lands Division of the Montana DNRC, completed a programmatic environmental analysis for aggregate testing. The programmatic environmental analysis goes into further detail and evaluates a wider scope of resources than this checklist environmental assessment. This checklist environmental assessment should be read and understood in conjunction with the programmatic environmental analysis. The programmatic environmental assessment can be found on the Departments website at: <https://dnrc.mt.gov/TrustLand/subsurface-resources/Aggregate-Testing-Programmatic-EA-FINAL.pdf>

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

On June 10, 2026, DNRC received an application from Wickens Construction, Inc., henceforth referred to as proponent, to test for aggregate on State of Montana School Trust Lands. The application was made for Township 17N, Range 17E, Section 16. This checklist analysis, in conjunction with the programmatic analysis, will evaluate the impacts of an action alternative and no action alternative. The issuance of an aggregate testing permit allows the permittee to dig holes between 3ft and 20 ft in depth to observe and test the aggregate resource present. The proponent will salvage and replace topsoil and reseed disturbed areas with an approved seed mix.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Application was received by the DNRC Lewistown Unit Office on June 10, 2026. The application was forwarded to Minerals Management Bureau on June 11, 2026. The surface lessee for this tract will be contacted and informed of the application.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

No Action Alternative: The aggregate testing would be denied

Action Alternative: The aggregate testing would be approved with standard stipulations along with any special stipulations identified resulting from this analysis.

additional archaeological investigative work will be conducted in response to this proposed development. However, if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

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.

Are there other studies, plans, or projects currently in place on this tract?

- Yes – Listed below are the other studies, plans, or projects currently in place on this tract. Attached in Exhibit B are maps of the listed studies, plans, or projects.
 - REMB Lease 5444
 - Ag and Grazing Lease AG-10564
 - D -11418 – Easement – Fergus Electric Coop Inc – Overhead Power Distribution
 - D - 11643 – Easement – Rollin E and Denise M Nelson – Private Access Road
 - D - 11724 – Easement – Naylor Family Trust – Private Access Road
 - D – 12056 – Easement – Department of Transportation – State highway
 - D - 12258 – Easement – Quest Communications – Buried Telephone Distribution
 - D - 12573 – Easement – Fergus Electric Coop Inc – Overhead Power Distribution
 - D – 14836 – Easement – Fergus County – County Road
 - D – 02068 – Easement – Department of Transportation – State Highway
 - D – 07483 – Easement – Fergus County – County Road

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:
Are there any locally adopted environmental plans and goals for the tracts upon which aggregate testing is proposed?

- Yes, evaluate the impacts to these plans or goals that aggregate testing would create.
 - Fergus County Long Range Plan – NRCS
 - Aggregate testing would have no impact on the NRCS Fergus County Long Range Plan
 - Fergus County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) – DNRC
 - Aggregate testing would have no impact on the DNRC CWPP

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| Checklist EA | Name: KELLY BERTELLOTTI | Date: 6/11/2026 |
| Prepared By: | Title: MINERALS RESOURCE SPECIALIST | |

7. The permittee shall only spread a native, weed-free seed mix on the disturbance. The mixture must be approved by the unit office prior to the spreading of seed.
8. The permittee shall inspect and wash any equipment being utilized in operations prior to commencing work. This shall mitigate the risk of fire and the spread of noxious and invasive weeds.
9. The permittee shall be responsible for the elimination of noxious and invasive weeds that are introduced or exacerbated resulting from permitted activities.
10. The permittee shall keep a fire extinguisher readily available during operations. A fire start caused by permitted operations is the sole responsibility of the permit.
11. The Department may postpone operations if they are deemed as a fire risk.
12. If any previously unidentified historical, archeological or paleontological resources are encountered during permitted activities the permittee shall stop activities, avoid the site, and immediately report it to DNRC.

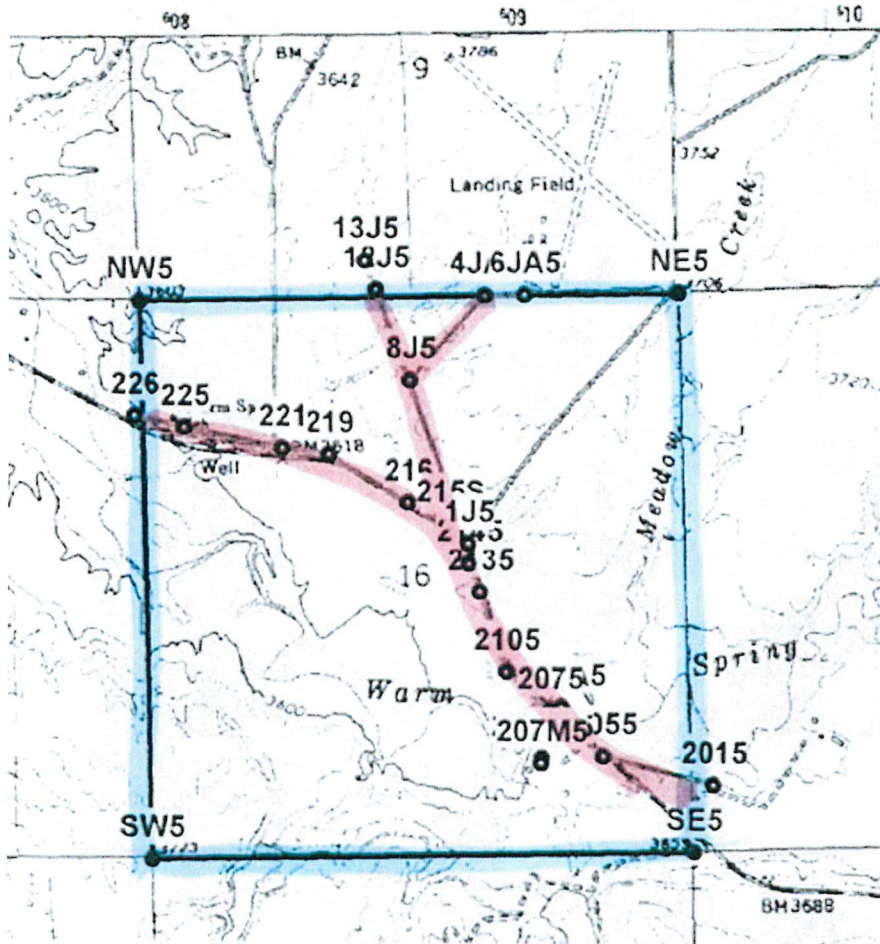
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|----------------------------------|--|
| Checklist EA | Name: <i>Josh Stoychoff</i> |
| Approved By: | Title: <i>Lewistown Unit Manager.</i> <i>NELO, DNRC-TRM</i> |
| Signature: <i>Josh Stoychoff</i> | Date: <i>7/2/26</i> |

Exhibit B

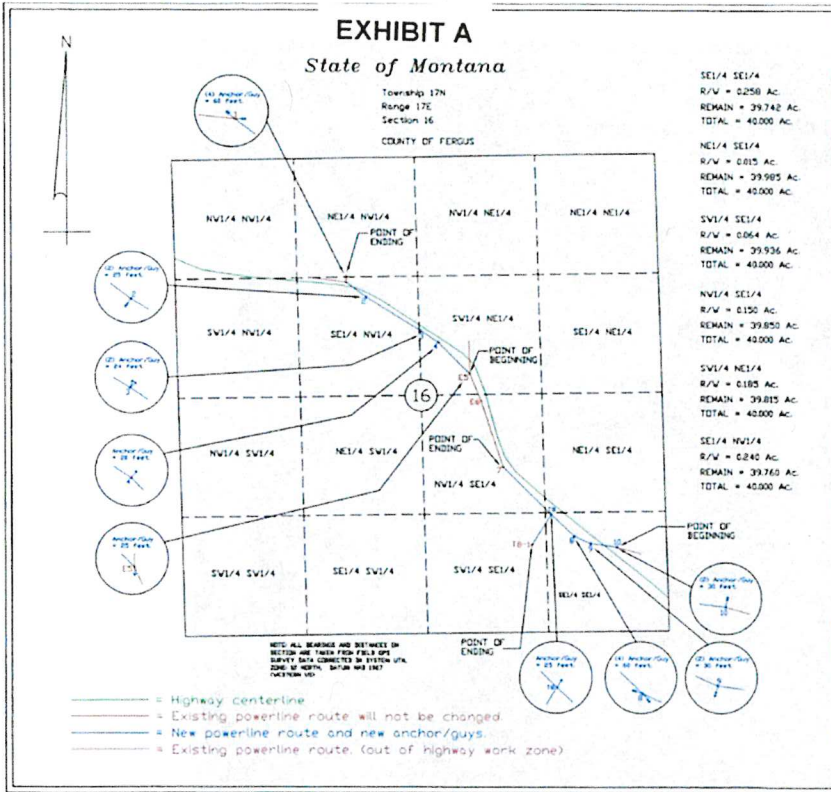
REMB Lease 5444 – Residential Lease - PT NE1/4 SW1/4 SE1/4 Sec. 16, T17N R17E; 1.74 acres

Ag and Grazing Lease AG-10564 – Agricultural – 638.33 acres

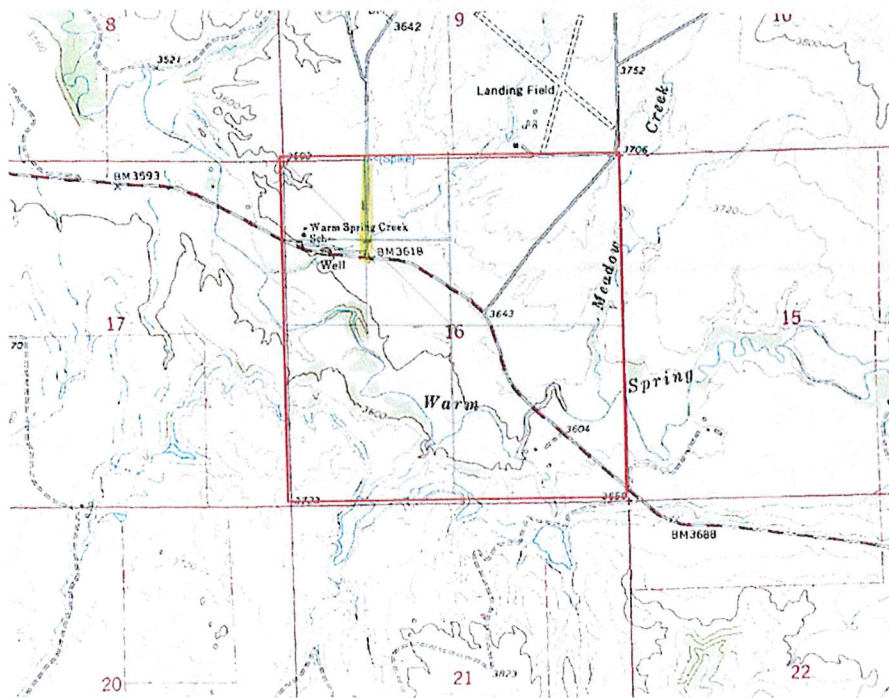
D -11418 – Easement – Fergus Electric Coop Inc – Overhead Power Distribution



D - 12573 – Easement – Fergus Electric Coop Inc – Overhead Power Distribution

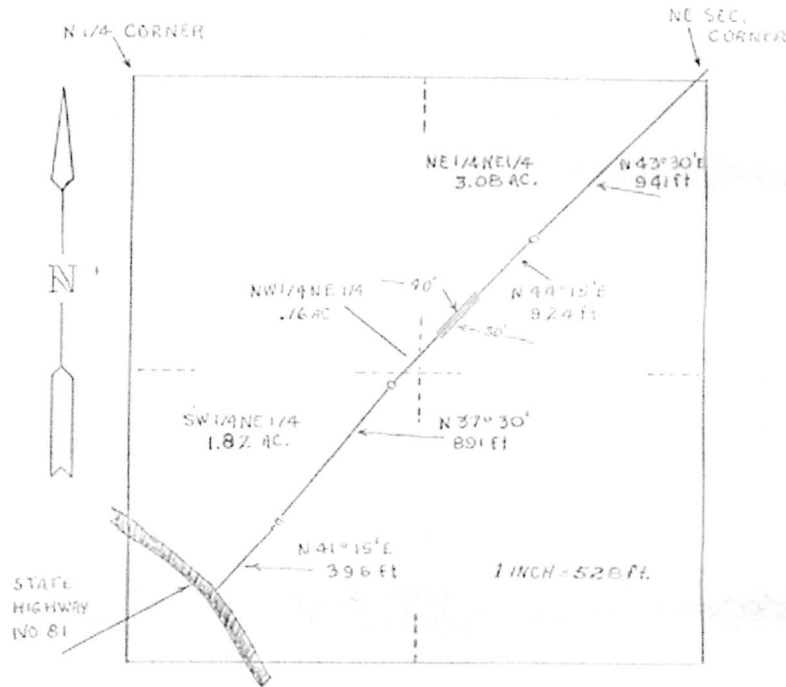


D - 14836 – Easement – Fergus County – County Road



D - 07483 - Easement - Fergus County - County Road

FERGUS COUNTY
 NE 1/4 SECTION 16, T17N, R17E
 COUNTY ROAD



A tract or strip of land in the NE 1/4, Section 16, Township 17 North, Range 17 East, Principal Meridian Montana, Fergus County, Montana, more particularly described as follows:

A tract or strip of land 70 feet in width, 30 feet on the East and 40 feet on the West of a centerline, with a point of true beginning on the North edge of State Highway 81 South 57° 38' East 450 feet from Station 432+08.3 State Highway Survey of July 24, 1934, Deed 2068; thence North 41° 15' East 396 feet; thence North 37° 30' East 891 feet; thence North 41° 15' East 924 feet; thence North 43° 30' East 941 feet and end of survey, and containing 5.06 acres, more or less.