

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Triangle Telecommunication Cable to provide service to North Havre Co Water District	Proposed Implementation Date: Fall 2022/Spring 2023
Proponent: Triangle Communications 2121 US HWY 2 NW PO BOX 1140 Havre, MT 59501	
Type and Purpose of Action: Installation of a fiber optic line with a 20' right of way with 10' on each side, 280.01 feet to point then a another line 161.14 ft to the point of terminus.	
Location: Sec. 31, T33N, R16E School Trust: Common Schools	County: Hill

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	DNRC, Surface owner Triangle Communications- Arica Lowe OSP Engineer Havre, MT North Havre County Water District
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	There are no other agencies with jurisdiction on this project.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	Action. Approve the requested fiber optic line No action. Do not approve the requested fiber optic line.

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS
	N = Not Present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)
4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] Soils and geology in this area are suitable for the installation of a fiber optic telecommunications line. The topography is flat to slightly rolling and the tracts are adjacent to the county roads and state highways which are near the fiber optic telecommunications line route. Equipment will cause localized areas of soil compaction and will disturb the soil where the fiber optic telecommunications line is being placed. Cumulative impacts on soil resources are not expected due to the site being already developed into a telecommunications line.
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	[N] The proposed action is located away from any water resources and will not affect water quality. Project will bring

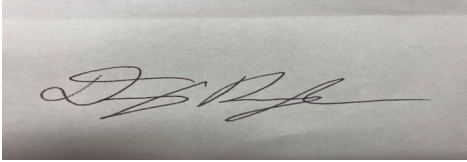
<p>maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>power to existing water infrastructure.</p>
<p>6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N] The proposed action will not impact the air quality.</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N] The site is located on tracts that are classified agricultural land currently in small grain production. Crops have been harvested on all the tracts that were not in fallow. The summer fallow areas will be ripped and disked after the project is completed and returned to agricultural land. Noxious and annual weeds within the proposed construction areas are a concern, but this concern will be mitigated as the applicants are responsible for controlling weeds within the construction areas. Cumulative impacts on the vegetative resources are not expected as the proposed construction areas are continuously disturbed by the production of small grains.</p>
<p>8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N] The area where the construction is taking place is not close to any area currently being used by wildlife. Cumulative impacts are not likely to occur as the project areas are located in land that is used for small grain production. Construction may temporarily displace the area wildlife, but no long-term impacts will take place to their 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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N] There are no species of special concern or any other sensitive habitat types associated with the proposed project area.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] There was no historical or archaeological sites noted in the project area as the tracts are continuously disturbed with the production of small grains and a current fiber optic telecommunications line.</p>
<p>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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N] Installation of the fiber optic telecommunications line will not affect the aesthetics of the land in any way as it will not be visible. It will lead to no erosion of the soil resources on the tract as it is located six feet below the surface.</p>
<p>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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?</p>	<p>[N] The demand on environmental resources such as land, water, air, or energy will not be affected by the proposed project. The proposed project will not consume resources that are limited in the area. There are no other projects in the area that will affect the proposed project.</p>
<p>13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are</p>	<p>[Y] The proposal is a part of a large regional telecommunications system that brings power and</p>

cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area?	telecommunications to municipalities for infrastructure. In this case, this will bring service to North Havre Co Water District. Other MEPA's may be completed as necessary.
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III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N] The proposal is to provide telecommunications to North Havre Co Water District. This will help mitigate health and safety risks in the area.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[N] The proposed fiber optic telecommunications line will not alter these activities. The surface lessee reported no anticipated damages and signed a lessee settlement of damages.
16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed action is of small scale and will only employ existing workers and provide short term work to potential contractors.
17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The proposed action will not add to the local, state and federal tax revenue.
18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The small scale of this project will not add substantial traffic to the area.
19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] The proposed project is in compliance with Federal, State, and County laws. No other management plans are in effect for the area.
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? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[N] The tracts of state land have generally low recreational value due to the land already being host to North Havre Co Water District. It is legally accessible to the public. The proposed project is not expected to impact general recreation activities on this State Land.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[Y] The proposed action is at small scale will not have the proposed effects.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] The proposed project will not alter the social structure of the surrounding native communities.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] The proposed project will not impact the cultural uniqueness and/or cultural diversity of the area.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: Is there a potential for other future uses for easement area other than for current management? Is future use	[Y] The fiber optic telecommunications line will provide potential for future uses on the tract. Cumulative impacts are

hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	minimal and will not affect the long-term productivity of the ag lease on the tract.
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EA Checklist Prepared By: _____ Land Use Specialist –Havre Unit Date: 11/3/2022

Daniel Pendergraph Title

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Approve the requested drinking water pipeline.
26. SIGN4IFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Environmental Assessment reveals no significant potential impacts.

