

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION CHECKLIST FOR OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ON PRIVATE LAND IN SASKATCHEWAN

This Guideline outlines Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management's (SERM's) environmental evaluation requirements for all oil and gas projects, except seismic exploration, on privately owned land. The guidelines apply to drilling, pipelines (including flowlines) and all other facilities (e.g., batteries, compressor stations) which occupy PRIVATE land.

The Guideline provides a self-screening mechanism for industry to determine if their development projects on privately owned land require review by SERM. Only those projects which trigger one or more of the environmental issues identified on this list require clearance from SERM before starting.

ALL PROJECTS ON CROWN LAND ARE SUBJECT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING according to our **Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Act Guide to Proposal Development - Oil and Natural Gas Projects (revised November 2000)**.

COMPANIES ARE TO SCREEN ALL NON-SEISMIC PROJECTS ON PRIVATE LAND BY ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS ON PAGE 2.

If **ALL** responses are **NO**, then the checklist is to be forwarded to the appropriate SERM EcoRegion, but you do not need to wait for SERM to respond. Work may start once you have all required approvals.

If you answer **YES** to one or more of the questions on the checklist, follow these procedures:

- # Forward the checklist to the appropriate SERM EcoRegion.
- # Provide a brief description of the project and information pertaining to the item(s) marked **YES**. Describe how you will mitigate any problems / issues associated with the checked item(s). Information is **NOT** required in relation to items that were not checked. Refer to **The Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Act Guide to Proposal Development - Oil and Natural Gas Projects** when preparing your information.
- # **WAIT** for a clearance response from SERM before starting work.

We recommend that you contact SERM's Regional Oil and Gas Coordinator with any questions. They can help you identify concerns and advise on an appropriate level of information requirements.

SERM will be doing random checks to verify the accuracy of submitted checklists and information and to check whether or not any of the trigger items have been noted as a "yes."

Note: Proponents are responsible for ensuring projects are cleared by the Archaeological Resource Management Branch of Municipal Affairs, Culture and Housing, prior to beginning construction. Contact Carlos Germann at (306) 787-5772 for additional information and project review.

SERM CHECKLIST FOR OIL / GAS DEVELOPMENTS ON PRIVATE LAND

NOTE - All seismic programs must be submitted to the SERM regional office. All development projects on CROWN land are subject to environmental screening by the SERM regional office.

Company Name and Address _____

Contact Name _____ Phone _____ FAX _____

Project Type (well, battery, compressor, access, flow/pipeline, etc.) _____

Land Location _____ Approx. construction date(s) _____

- 1) Will you be burning woody debris within 4.5 km (3 miles) of a provincial forest or park?
" YES " NO
- 2) Did your Conservation Data Centre check report any SERM "species of special concern"? Contact the CDC directly at (306) 787-7196 or FAX at (306) 787-9544 or at their website at: <http://www.biodiversity.sk.ca>. Information on species of concern can be obtained from SERM's Regional Oil and Gas Coordinator.
" YES " NO
- 3) Did your pre-site assessment identify any species of concern in the area (refer to SERM's species list and restrictions and contacts in the previous question)?
" YES " NO
- 4) Will your project cause either: a) surface disturbance within 45 m of any watercourse or waterbody or 90 m of any fish bearing or potentially fish bearing watercourse or waterbody, **OR** b) surface disturbance on a slope leading directly to a watercourse or waterbody, even if that disturbance will occur at a distance greater than the buffer distances listed above?
" YES " NO
- 5) Will your project require crossing of any watercourse or waterbody, other than by directional drilling that begins and terminates beyond the buffers referenced in Question 4?
" YES " NO
- 6) Will your project affect provincial Crown agricultural or Crown Resource land in any way, or any land with a special designation (Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, Conservation Easement, Game Preserve, Provincial Park, Recreation Site, Regional Park, Ecological Reserve, Qu'Appelle Implementation, Rafferty or Alameda Mitigation Land) or any other land with a special designation?
" YES " NO
- 7) Will any aspect of your waste management program be inconsistent with SPIGEC's *Waste Management Guidelines for the Saskatchewan Upstream Oil and Gas Industry* or produce wastes that will not be disposed of at a facility approved to handle that waste?
" YES " NO
- 8) Does this project involve drilling more than 8 wells per quarter section or installation of pipe >168.3 mm in diameter on **CULTIVATED** land (including improved or tame pasture).
" YES " NO

9) Does this project involve drilling more than 4 wells per quarter section or installation of pipe >168.3 mm in diameter in **NATIVE** vegetation (grassland or woodland)?

" YES " NO

10) Does this project require development of a road on an undeveloped road allowance?

" YES " NO

11) Does this project use surface or ground water for steam injection or waterflood?

" YES " NO

12) Does this project involve release of hydrostatic test water?

" YES " NO

REMINDER: All projects where any YES box is checked MUST be reported to the SERM Regional Oil & Gas Coordinator along with the information described above and await clearance from that office before proceeding.

Name of individual completing the checklist _____ Date _____

Position with the company _____ Signature _____

December 2000

OIL AND GAS ACTIVITY ON NATIVE GRASSLAND

The grassland ecosystem is the most altered ecosystem in North America. The area of native grassland is declining, and what remains is often affected adversely by land-use practices. Besides being a valuable resource in its own right, the remaining native grassland often supports more rare and endangered species than other ecosystems. These species include both plants and those wildlife species for which native prairie is a key habitat at some point in their life cycle. Even where rare and endangered species are not present, protecting native grassland areas is critical if we are to maintain biodiversity in agricultural areas of Saskatchewan. Protecting remaining areas of native grassland, whether Crown- or privately owned, is therefore of key interest to SERM.

If your project encroaches on native grassland on private land, whether or not any of the items on the checklist are triggered, SERM recommends the following measures to help reduce the impact of your project on this valuable resource:

- ! Avoid topsoil stripping wherever possible by locating the lease in the most level location available. Stripping can often be reduced or eliminated where terrain is nearly level by using hydraulic jacks and planking.
- ! Where stripping is essential, strip only what is required for safety, not the entire lease.
- ! Re-seed disturbed native prairie using a seed mix of native species common in the project area.