

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
WATER RIGHTS BUREAU
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of action:** Water right change application no. 76LJ-G(P)005962-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** Harold A. Tutvedt, 555 Clark Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901
3. **Water source name:** Stillwater River
4. **Location affected by action:** NESE Sec 25, T29N, R22W, Flathead County
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** The applicant is seeking a temporary authorization to change to add a second point of diversion on the Stillwater River in NESE Sec 25, T29N, R19W to pump 250 gpm up to 20 AF/yr for the purpose of dust abatement and roadbed compaction for road reconstruction on U.S. Highway 93 from a point in Sec 31, T29N, R21W to a point in Sec 19, T29N, R21W, Flathead County. 6.667 acres of irrigated land will be taken out of production in SESESE Sec 17, T30N, R22W to make water available for this new diversion. The total amount of appropriated water will not change.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:** None

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Environmental Impact Checklist:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Soils/Geologic Features:

Degradation of soil quality or alteration of soil stability, moisture content, geologic substructure, unique geologic features, archeological sites?

NO

Erosion:

Alteration of erosion or siltation patterns which modify stream beds or lake shores?

NO

Vegetation/Noxious weeds:

Change in or adverse affect on diversity and production of local plant species including any unique or endangered species (including trees, shrubs, grass, and aquatic plants)? Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?

NO

Air:

Deterioration of air quality, or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.

NO

Water:

Alteration of surface water or groundwater quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity or quantity or distribution?

NO

Floodplain:

Changes in drainage patterns, course or magnitude of flood flows, or exposure of people/property to hazards (flood)?

NO

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat? Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife?

NO

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NO

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?

NO

Historical Significance:

Destruction or alteration of a natural area of scientific or educational value or prehistoric or paleontological importance?

NO

Populace:

Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area? Alteration of social structure of community?

NO

Transportation:

Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?

NO

Safety:

Creation of any health hazard or affect on existing emergency response or evacuation plans?

NO

Public Services:

Have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? Have an effect upon local or state tax base?

NO

Utilities:

Creates need for new or altered facilities for any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?

NO

Aesthetics:

Alteration of any scenic vista or recreation opportunity or creation of an aesthetically offensive site to the public?

NO

Other:

NO

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2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** None
 3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** No impacts have been identified. If the Authorization for Change is not issued the public will not be able to enjoy the benefits of reconstructed highway.

PART III. CONCLUSION

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? No

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action: There will be no significant impacts, therefore no EIS is required.

PREPARED BY:

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TITLE: Water Resources Specialist
DATE: June 3, 1996