

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 use permit application no. 41R-Q099011
Water right change application no.
Petition or Other Action:
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** MICHELS PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION, PO
BOX 128, BROWNSVILLE, WI. 53006.
3. **Water source name:** ARROW CREEK
4. **Location affected by action:** NENENE SEC. 33, T20N, R13E, FERGUS CO.
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** THE
DNRC SHALL ISSUE A WATER USE PERMIT IF AN APPLICANT PROVES THE
CRITERIA IN 85-2-311, MCA ARE MET. THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING A
TEMPORARY PERMIT TO PUMP 300 GPM, UP TO 0.45 AF FROM ARROW CREEK. THE
WATER WILL BE USED FOR HORIZONTAL-DIRECTIONAL DRILLING AND HYDROSTATIC
TESTING FOR A PIPELINE. USE WILL BE TEMPORARY UNTIL OCT 21, 1996.
THE PLACE OF USE IS IN THE NENENE SEC. 33, T20N, R 13E.
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?

SEE THE DRAFT AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS (FEIS & DEIS)
PREPARED BY THE DEPT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE
STATE OF MT DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.

Erosion:

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

SEE FEIS AND DEIS

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?

SEE FEIS AND DEIS

Air:

Deterioration of air quality, or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants. SEE FEIS AND DEIS

Water:

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

THERE WILL BE NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FROM THE DIVERSION OF WATER FROM ARROW CREEK. DOWNSTREAM WATER USE IS MINIMAL AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, AND PERMISSION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM DOWNSTREAM WATER USERS. WITH THE TYPE OF DRILLING METHOD BEING UTILIZED THERE WILL BE NO IMPACTS TO WATER QUALITY.

Floodplain:

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

SEE FEIS AND DEIS

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

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

SEE FEIS AND DEIS

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

SEE FEIS AND DEIS

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

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

SEE FEIS AND DEIS

Historical Significance:

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

SEE FEIS AND DEIS

Populace:

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

SEE FEIS AND DEIS

Transportation:

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

SEE FEIS AN DEIS

Safety:

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

SEE FEIS AND DEIS

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?

SEE FEIS AND DEIS

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?

SEE FEIS AND DEIS

Aesthetics:

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

SEE FEIS AND DEIS

Other:

SEE FEIS AND DEIS

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2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** SEE FEIS AND DEIS
 3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** NO ACTION - THE PROPOSED PIPELINE WOULD NOT BE CONSTRUCTED UNDER THIS ALTERNATIVE. HOWEVER, IT IS LIKELY THAT ECONOMIC EFFECTS COULD OCCUR. DEMAND FOR CRUDE OIL HAS EXCEEDED SUPPLY. AS A RESULT OF REDUCED CRUDE OIL SUPPLY, REFINERIES COULD BE FORCED TO CLOSE DOWN. MODIFIED ACTION - OTHER PIPELINES MAY BE BUILT AT OTHER LOCATIONS TO SUPPLY THE CRUDE OIL, HOWEVER, IMPACTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THE EFFECTS OF THIS PIPELINE. ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE IF REFINED PRODUCT PIPELINES COULD BE BUILT SO THAT LESS CRUDE OIL IS NEEDED TO BE REFINED, OR REFINED PRODUCTS COULD BE IMPORTED. AN ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCE COULD BE CONSIDERED. HOWEVER, IMPACTS FROM USING OTHER SOURCES COULD BE MORE DETRIMENTAL TO PRIOR WATER USERS, AND IN SOME CASES, DIVERSION WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF ADVERSE AFFECTS OR CLOSED BASINS.

PART III. CONCLUSION

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? SEE BELOW

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

A DEIS AND FEIS HAS ALREADY BEEN PREPARED BY THE BLM AND MDEQ. THAT DEIS AND FEIS IS ACCEPTED AND MADE A PART OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.

PREPARED BY:

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TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST
DATE: OCTOBER 7, 1996