

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.
43BJ-G(W)008299-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**
GEORGE MATELICH
320 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022
3. **Water source name:** BOULDER RIVER
4. **Location affected by action:** NENENE, SECTION 32, TWP 1 SOUTH, RGE 14 EAST,
SWEETGRASS COUNTY
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** THE DNRC SHALL
ISSUE A WATER USE AUTHORIZATION IF AN APPLICANT PROVES THE CRITERIA IN 85-
2-402, MCA ARE MET. THIS APPLICATION IS TO CHANGE THE POINT OF DIVERSION.
THE FLOW RATE IS 272 GPM UP TO 125 ACRE-FEET ACRE-FEET.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
MT FWP, MT NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM AND MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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?

YES, THERE WILL BE SOME CHANGE IN SOIL STRUCTURE AND GEOLOGIC FEATURES WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STORAGE RESERVOIR. NOTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE WILL BE AFFECTED .

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.

YES, THE NEW SYSTEM WILL US AN ELECTRIC PUMP WHICH WILL DECREASE AIR POLLUTANTS AND REDUCE NOISE POLUTION.

Water:

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

NO , THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF WATER USED.

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, THERE WILL BE NO AFFECT ON FISH OR WILDLIFE HABITAT.

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NO, THE ONLY SPECIES REPORTED BY THE MT NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM ARE IN THE GENERAL AREA AND NOT THIS SPECIFIC LOCATION. THEY WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE CHANGE.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

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

YES, THE CURRENT IRRIGATED LAND WILL BE MORE PROFITABLE BECAUSE OF INCREASE EFFICIENCY OF THE IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

Historical Significance:

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

NO, THERE WERE NO ITEMS OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE REPORTED IN THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE.

Populace:

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

NO, THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE.

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, CURRENT FACILITIES ARE ADEQUATE.

Aesthetics:

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

NO

Other:

NO

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 CHANGE APPLICATION WAS NOT APPROVED, THE OLD SYSTEM WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN USE

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:

AN EA IS ADEQUATE FOR THIS ACTION.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: JAN LANGEL
TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST
DATE: [Automatic date code removed]