

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.
42M-G(E)109580
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**
EDDIE BUXBAUM
P.O. BOX 433
FAIRVIEW, MT 59221
3. **Water source name:** GROUNDWATER
4. **Location affected by action:** SESWSW, SECTION 36, T25N, R59E, RICHLAND COUNTY
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** THIS APPLICATION IS TO REPLACE AN EXISTING WELL. THE EXISTING WELL FAILED AND THE NEW WELL WAS DRILLED 20 FEET FROM THE OLD WELL. THE WELL IS USED FOR DOMESTIC USE AND STOCK WATERING AND IS LOCATED WITHIN THE FARM YARD. THE NEW WELL WAS COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER, 1999. THE DNRC SHALL ISSUE A CHANGE AUTHORIZATION IF AN APPLICANT PROVES THE CRITERIA IN 85-2-402, MCA ARE MET. THE EXISTING RIGHT IS TO USE 12 GPM UP TO 5.03 ACRE-FEET.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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?

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT-THE NEW WELL IS LOCATED IN AN EXISTING FARMYARD. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY UNDISTURBED GEOLOGIC STRUCTURES ARE PRESENT. SOIL QUALITY MAY BE SLIGHTLY IMPACTED IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF THE WELL HEAD.

Erosion:

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

NO IMPACT

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?

MINOR IMPACT TO THE VEGETATION AT THE NEW WELL SITE. THE AREA SHOULD RE-VEGETATE ON ITS OWN EVEN IF NOT RE-SEEDED. IF NOXIOUS WEEDS ARE PRESENT, THEY SHOULD BE EASILY CONTROLLED IN THE LIMITED AREA DISTURBED. ACCORDING TO THE MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, THERE ARE NO PLANT SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA.

Air:

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

NO IMPACT

Water:

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

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT-A PROPERLY DRILLED WELL WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON GROUNDWATER QUALITY. THE OLD WELL MUST BE PROPERLY ABANDONED TO ENSURE NO CONTAMINATION OF GROUNDWATER. THE WELL WAS DRILLED BY A LICENSED WELL DRILLER.

Floodplain:

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

NO IMPACT

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

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

EXISTING FARMYARD. NO ADDITIONAL IMPACT ON WILDLIFE HABITAT OR MIGRATION WILL OCCUR.

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NO IMPACT-ACCORDING TO THE MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, THERE ARE NO ANIMAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA. SEE THE VEGETATION SECTION OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION ON THE PLANT SPECIES.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

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

NO IMPACT-NO CHANGE IN THE EXISTING LAND USE.

Historical Significance:

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

THE NEW WELL HAS ALREADY BEEN DRILLED AND IS LOCATED IN AN EXISTING FARMYARD. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANY ITEM OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE WAS DISTURBED DURING THE DRILLING. DUE TO THE MINIMAL LAND DISTURBANCE AND THAT THE PROJECT IS LOCATED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, NO RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY IS REQUIRED.

Populace:

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

NO IMPACT

Transportation:

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

NO IMPACT

Safety:

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

NO IMPACT

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 IMPACT

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 IMPACT

Aesthetics:

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

NO IMPACT

Other:

NO IMPACT

2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** NONE

3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. IF THE AUTHORIZATION WERE NOT ISSUED, THE APPLICANT WOULD NOT HAVE THE BENEFIT OF A REPLACEMENT WELL FOR DOMESTIC AND STOCK 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. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS, THEREFORE, NO EIS IS REQUIRED.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: DENISE BIGGAR
TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST
DATE: [Automatic date code removed]