

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Water Resources Division  
Water Rights Bureau

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact**

Note: Instructions to DNRC staff for preparing this EA can be found at:  
[http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/eis\\_ea.html](http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/eis_ea.html)

**Part I. Proposed Action Description**

1. *Applicant/Contact name and address:*  
AUTUMN RIDGE COMPANY, LLC  
66 ARROWHEAD TRAIL  
BOZEMAN, MT 59715
2. *Type of action:* APPLICATION TO APPROPRIATE GROUNDWATER #30010328-41H
3. *Water source name:* GROUNDWATER
4. *Location affected by project:* SESESw SEC. 18 TIS R6E GALLATIN CO.
5. *Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*  
THE APPLICANT IS DRILLING A 295' WELL TO SUPPLY A DOMESTIC RESIDENCE.
6. *Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:  
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)*  
MTSHPO  
MTNHP

**Part II. Environmental Review**

**1. Environmental Impact Checklist:**

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION**

**Water quantity** - Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

*Determination:* SEE BELOW AS TO GROUNDWATER.

**Water quality** - Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.

*Determination:* SEE BELOW AS TO GROUNDWATER.

**Groundwater** - Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.

*Determination:* A WELL DRILLED TO A TOTAL DEPTH OF 295'. A 1HR PUMP TEST HAS PROVEN AVAILABILITY EXISTS. THE PROJECT EXISTS IN THE SYPES CANYON CONTROLLED GROUNDWATER AREA. THE APPLICANT HAS SIGNED THE 612 FOR INSTALLING AN APPROVED WATER MEASURING DEVICE. THE APPLICANT MUST KEEP THE APPROPRIATION LIMITED TO 15 GPM AND 1.63 ACRE- FEET TO NOT BE FORCED TO PUBLIC NOTICE THE APPLICATION AND POSSIBLY HAVE OBJECTIONS.

**DIVERSION WORKS** - Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.

*Determination:* A 295' WELL DEVELOPED IN CLAY/GRAVELS.

#### **UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

**Endangered and threatened species** - Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or "species of special concern."

*Determination:* NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED.

**Wetlands** - Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.

*Determination:* NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

**Ponds** - For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.

*Determination:* NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

**GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE** - Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.

*Determination:* NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

**VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS** - Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.

Determination: NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

**AIR QUALITY** - Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.

Determination: NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

**HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES** - Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Determination: NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED, A CULTURAL INVESTIGATION BY THE MONTANA STATE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICE IDENTIFIED NO KNOWN SITES.

**DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY** - Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.

Determination: NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>
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**LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS** - Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

Determination: NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED, THE PROJECT IS LOCATED IN THE SYPES CANYON CONTROLLED GROUNDWATER AREA AND THE APPLICANT IS ADHERING TO THE PARAMETERS OF THE LIMITATIONS.

**ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES** - Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

Determination: NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

**HUMAN HEALTH** - Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

Determination: NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

**PRIVATE PROPERTY** - Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.

Yes \_\_\_ No X If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

Determination:

**OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES** - For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.

Impacts on:

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity? **NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED**
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? **NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED**
- (c) Existing land uses? **NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED**
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? **NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED**
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? **NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED**
- (f) Demands for government services? **NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED**
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? **NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED**
- (h) Utilities? **NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED**
- (i) Transportation? **NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED**
- (j) Safety? **NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED**
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? **NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED**

**2. Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:**

Secondary Impacts: NONE IDENTIFIED

Cumulative Impacts MAY CONTRIBUTE TO LOWERING THE POTENTIOMETRIC SURFACE.

**3. Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:** THE AREA SHOULD BE CONNECTED TO A CITY/MUNICIPAL SOURCE.

**4. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider:** NO ACTION: NOT TO ALLOW THE APPLICANT TO HOLD A WATER RIGHT AND POSSIBLY LIMIT DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPERTY.

*PART III. Conclusion*

**1. Preferred Alternative: DEVELOP A REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY TO DELIVER WATER TO INDIVIDUALLY DEVELOPED LOTS.**

**2 Comments and Responses:** THE APPLICANT IS DEVELOPING A LOWER PORTION OF THE AQUIFER AND MAY BE LIMITING ADVERSE AFFECTS TO OTHER WELLS IN THE AREA.

**3. Finding:**  
Yes \_\_\_ No **X** Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?

*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 THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT.*

*Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:*

*Name:* Porter Dassenko  
*Title:* WATER RESOURCE SPECIALIST  
*Date:* 7/1/2004