

ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (EA/EIS)

Part I. Proposed Action Description

Applicant/Contact Name & Address: Butte-Silver Bow County
126 W Granite St
Butte MT 59701-9216

Type of Action: Application to Change a Water Right No. 30047471-76G
Statement of Claim Nos. 91510-76G & 124870-76G

Location Affected by Action: NESESE, Sec 25, Twp 5N, Rge 12W, Deer Lodge County

Narrative Summary of Proposed Action: The Applicant proposes to add places of use to two historic water rights for the Mill Creek Generating Station (MCGS) operated by NorthWestern Energy. The rights are part of the Silver Lake Water System owned and operated by Butte-Silver Bow County. The Applicant will deliver untreated water to MCGS to a water treatment plant. The treatment plant will use a combination of filter, reverse osmosis, and deionization equipment to produce demineralized water which will be pumped to an adjacent 500,000-gallon water tank. The water will be pumped to the individual generating units for injection into the gas turbine fire box where it will be used for Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) control in the plant's emission control system. The MCGS will require water in the amount of 300 gpm up to 483 af/ft per year.

Part II. Existing Environmental Review Information

Title: Environmental Assessment for the Mill Creek Generation Station operated by NorthWestern Energy

Publication Date: December 1, 2008

Lead Agency: Shaw, Stone and Webster of Centennial, Colorado and Bison Engineering, Inc. of Helena, Montana

Location Where Interested Parties Can View or Obtain the Document: NorthWestern Energy in Butte, Montana and the DNRC Helena Regional Office in Helena, Montana

Part III. Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

- _X_Yes ___No Does the existing environmental review cover an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action?
- _X_Yes ___No Is the information in the existing environmental review accurate and clearly presented?
- _X_Yes ___No Is the information in the existing environmental review applicable to the action being considered?
- _X_Yes ___No Were all appropriate Agencies consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review?
- _X_Yes ___No Were alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort?
- _X_Yes ___No Have all of the impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review?
- _X_Yes ___No If the existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action, will they be mitigated below the level of significance?

Part IV. Conclusion

If the answers to ALL of the questions listed above are "Yes", the existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities.

PART V. Additional information concerning diversion works.

Water is diverted from Meyer Dam through a 5 foot flume located in the NESESE, Sec 25, Twp 5N, Rge 12W, Deer Lodge County. The water is conveyed in a 60" pipeline and a 34" pipeline to various places of use for industrial, irrigation and instream flow uses. Butte-Silver Bow County will deliver untreated water to the generating station via the 34" pipeline. At the power plant site, a six-inch flange will be welded onto the pipeline and a gate valve installed. The water will flow under pipeline pressure (approximately 170 psig) to a 500,000-gallon water tank via a six-inch steel, underground pipeline.

Name: Kathy Arndt

Title: Water Resources Specialist

Date: June 22, 2010

Signature: /s/ Kathy Arndt