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.
Water right change application no. 41F-G(W)136451-00
Petition or Other Action:

2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** LEROY & JEAN E THOM
PO BOX 1047
HASTINGS, NE 68901

3. **Water source name:** WIGWAM CREEK

4. **Location affected by action:** SECTION 20 T 07S 01W MADISON COUNTY

5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:**
APPLICANT IS SEEKING TO CHANGE THE POINT OF DIVERSION OF AN EXISTING WATER RIGHT ON WIGWAM CREEK. THE HISTORIC DIVERSION HAS BEEN FROM A DITCH IN THE SWNWSW SECTION 20 T07W R01W. THE PROPOSED DIVERSION WILL CONSIST OF A PUMP DIRECTLY FROM THE SOURCE IN THE NENESW SECTION 20 T 07W R 01W. THE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING TO WAIVE THE PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE APPLICATION AND ISSUE AN AUTHORIZATION.

6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**

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?

NO

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.

NO

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

NO

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

Endangered Species:
Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NO

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:
Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?

NO

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

NO

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

NO

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

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

NO

Other:

NO

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

3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** NO IMPACTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. DENYING THE APPLICATION WOULD REQUIRE WATER RIGHT OWNER TO RE-OPEN DITCH TO GET WATER TO IRRIGATED LAND. THIS OPTION INVOLVES A LESS EFFICIENT USE OF WATER DUE TO CONVEYANCE LOSSES AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS OF DITCH. ANOTHER POSSIBLE OPTION OF PLACING THE PUMP AT THE LOCATION OF THE HISTORIC DITCH DIVERSION WOULD REQUIRE MORE PIPE AND POSSIBLE EARTH DISTURBANCE AS WELL AS BEING MORE EXPENSIVE.

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:

There will be no significant impacts, therefore an EIS is not required.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: Scott Compton
TITLE: Regional Manager
DATE: October 24, 1995