

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. 41T-G(W)026911-00
Petition or Other Action:
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** USA, Dept. of Interior Bureau of
Land Management, Airport RD, Lewistown, MT 59457
3. **Water source name:** Groundwater Well
4. **Location affected by action:** SWNWSW Sec. 22, TWP 24N, RGE 13E,
Chouteau County
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** The
DNRC shall issue an authorization for change of appropriation if an
applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-402, MCA, are met. This
application is for a replacement well located about 50' southeast from
the old well. The old well was completed in June, 1969, and filed on
Water Right No. 41T-W026911-00 for 30 gpm and 28.5 acre-feet. The old
well casing corroded requiring a new well to be drilled. The wells
are in the same aquifer. The well is used for potable water for
floaters on the Missouri Wild & Scenic River. The new well will be
used for the same purpose as the old well and there will be no
increase in flow or volume. The old well was plugged and abandoned.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
None

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

-
2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** None
 3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** If an authorization is not issued, a new permit will be required which should not be necessary since this is a replacement well. If no permit or authorization is issued, there would no source of potable water for floaters because the old well has been plugged and abandoned.

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:

No significant impacts were identified, therefore no EIS is required.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: Dixie Brough
TITLE: Water Resources Specialist
DATE: April 26, 1999