

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. 40J-G(E)105741-00
Petition or Other Action:
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** Norman C. O'Neal, 552 5th ST N,
Havre, MT 59501
3. **Water source name:** Groundwater Well
4. **Location affected by action:** Lot 2, Stremcha Bessie Tract, SENESE Sec.
05, TWP 32N, RGE 16E, Hill 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 8' southeast of
the old well. The old well was filed on Exempt Water Right No. 40J-
E105741-00 for 13 gpm and 1.6 acre-feet, with a priority date of
November 25, 1925. The old well casing corroded requiring a new well
to be drilled. The old well was then abandoned. From the information
provided, it appears the wells are in the same aquifer. The new well
is 64' deep and the old well is 62' deep. The new well will be used
for the same purposes as the old well, which is domestic water and to
irrigate the lawn/garden. There will be no increase in flow or
volume.
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 Certificate will be required which should not be necessary since this is a replacement well. A Certificate can be filed without notice to the public if the appropriation is 35 gpm or less and 10 AF or less so there should be no reason not to issue an Authorization in this case. The only difference is the Certificate would have a later priority date.

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: June 3, 1999