

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
WATER RIGHTS BUREAU

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

- Type of action:** WATER RIGHT PERMIT APPLICATION NO.
42M-106980
- Applicant/Contact name and address:** MOO JUICE
201 E MAIN
SIDNEY MT 59270
- Water source name:** GROUNDWATER
- Location affected by action:** SW SW SW, SECTION 13, T21N, R57E, RICHLAND CO.
- Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** THE DNRC SHALL ISSUE A WATER USE PERMIT IF AN APPLICANT PROVES THE CRITERIA IN 85-2-311, MCA ARE MET. THIS APPLICATION IS TO USE 175 UP TO 168.6 ACRE-FEET FOR USE AT A 3000 COW DAIRY.
- Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
NONE

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

- 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, THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL INFORMATION INCLUDED WITH THE APPLICATION TO SHOW HOW THE MANURE WILL BE TREATED, STORED AND DISTRIBUTED. INFORMATION ALSO SHOWS THE PREVAILING WINDS WOULD TAKE ANY RESIDUAL ODOR AWAY FROM NEARBY FARMSTEADS.

Water:

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

NO. THREE MONITORING WELLS WILL BE DRILLED NEAR THE SITE AND WATCHED TO MAKE SURE THE SEWAGE PONDS ARE NOT LEAKING ANY CONTAMINANTS INTO THE GROUNDWATER.

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. THERE MAY BE AN INCREASE IN MILK HAULING TRUCKS ON COUNTY ROAD 115, HOWEVER THAT SHOULD NOT CREATE A PROBLEM. THIS IS A REMOTE AREA OF MONTANA AND TRAFFIC IS NOT CONGESTED.

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, TYPICALLY RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE USED IN THESE MORE REMOTE AREAS AND THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO GET TO THIS SITE VIA COUNTY ROAD 115.

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?

YES, THE DAIRY IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH THE LOWER YELLOWSTONE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE TO HAVE THREE PHASE POWER INSTALLED FOR THIS FACILITY.

Aesthetics:

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

NO, THIS IS A REMOTE AREA OF MONTANA AND ALL THE COWS WILL BE IN A CONFINED FACILITY.

Other:

NO

2. Secondary and cumulative impacts: NONE

3. Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative: NO IMPACTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. IF THE USE OF THE THIS WATER WERE NOT APPROVED, THE DAIRY COULD NOT BE CONSTRUCTED AND THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS COULD NOT BE ENJOYED. WATER IS AN ESSENTIAL NEED FOR THE OPERATION OF A DAIRY.

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:

AN EA IS ADEQUATE FOR THIS ACTION. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS, THEREFORE, NO EIS IS REQUIRED.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: KIM OVERCAST
TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST
DATE: [Automatic date code removed]