

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 right change application no. 76H G(W)105347-00
2. Applicant/Contact name and address: RAVALLI COUNTY SCHOOL DIST. #3
3. **Water source name:** Groundwater
4. **Location affected by action:** NENWNW SEC. 31 TWN 6N RGE 20W, RAVALLI COUNTY
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:**
The proposed action includes the abandonment of an existing well and the drilling of a replacement well. The new well will be used for irrigation of lawn and athletic fields. The new well will be installed by a licensed well driller.
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 impacts

Erosion:

Alteration of erosion or siltation patterns which modify stream beds or lake shores?

No impacts

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 impacts

Air:

Deterioration of air quality, or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.

No impacts

Water:

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

No impacts

Floodplain:

Changes in drainage patterns, course or magnitude of flood flows, or exposure of people/property to hazards (flood)?

No impacts

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat? Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife?

No impacts

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

No impacts

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?

No impacts

Historical Significance:

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

No impacts

Populace:

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

No impacts

Transportation:

Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?

No impacts

Safety:

Creation of any health hazard or affect on existing emergency response or evacuation plans?

No impacts

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 impacts

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 impacts

Aesthetics:

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

No impacts

Other:

None

2. Secondary and cumulative impacts:

No adverse impacts are expected.

3. Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:

No action: property would retain an unreliable water source.

Alternatives include:

1. Hauling water
2. Developing an alternate source

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:

During the drilling of this replacement well the old well will be abandoned by the driller. The new well will be constructed to the Board of Water Well Contractors rules.

PREPARED BY:

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