

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 PERMIT APPLICATION NO.  
41S-P111499-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**  
Town of Moore  
PO Box 98  
Moore, MT 59464
3. **Water source name:** GROUNDWATER
4. **Location affected by action:** Lot 2, Block 10, Original Townsite of Moore  
NE NW SE Section 16, T14N, R16E, Fergus County
5. **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 200 GPM up to 322 acre-feet from a groundwater well for municipal purposes in the Town of Moore.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**  
NONE

**PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

This well and water system were constructed in 1991 financed by a Community Development Block Grant. An environmental checklist was completed during the grant application process and is attached. Also it was found that some of the activities fall under categorical exclusions named in the first page of the attachment. Given that the environmental checklist was completed for the DNRC, it will be used in lieu of completing a new environmental review with the exception of additional comments regarding water quantity that was not addressed in the aforementioned environmental review.

Send requests for a complete copy of the previously completed checklist to:

Lewistown Water Resources Regional Office  
613 NE Main ST Suite E  
Lewistown, MT 59457

1. Environmental Impact Checklist:

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**Water:**

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

YES The new well will undoubtedly impact the quantity and distribution of groundwater in the area as the new well is in a much deeper aquifer than the wells previously used. Given that no complaints have been received after several years of system operation it is unlikely that any significant impact has occurred to the water quantity in the aquifer.

2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** NONE
3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** The no action alternative would result in the Town of Moore having made

large infrastructure investment that would be unusable. One alternative would be to divert less water and implement water conservation practices.

### **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, and EIS is not required.

#### **PREPARED BY:**

NAME: Andy Brummond  
TITLE: Water Resources Specialist  
DATE: [Automatic date code removed]