

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.
43C-109997-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**
Stillwater Mining Co.
HC 54 Box 365
Nye MT 59061
3. **Water source name:** Unnamed Tributary of Mountain View Creek
4. **Location affected by action:** NENENW Section 19, TWP 5 South, RGE 15 East, Stillwater 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 25 GPM UP TO 2.0 ACRE-FEET FOR CIRCULATION WATER FOR DRILLING AND GROUTING ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLATINUM MINING.
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 SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Erosion:

Alteration of erosion or siltation patterns which modify stream beds or lake shores? **NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

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 SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Air:

Deterioration of air quality, or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants. **NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Water:

Alteration of surface water or groundwater quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity or quantity or distribution? **THERE MAY BE SOME LOCALIZED IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY IN THE AREA, BUT THE IMPACT IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE SIGNIFICANT.**

Floodplain:

Changes in drainage patterns, course or magnitude of flood flows, or exposure of people/property to hazards (flood)? **NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat? Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife? **NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

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

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Historical Significance:

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

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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 SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

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.

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 SHOULD BE NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS, THEREFORE, NO EIS IS REQUIRED. THIS SMALL TEMPORARY USE OF WATER SHOULD HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE AREA.**

PREPARED BY:

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