

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. 41J-G(E)111517-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**  
THOMAS A. AND CECELIA J. KONESKY  
1059 E EDEN RD  
GREAT FALLS, MT 59405
3. **Water source name:** GROUNDWATER
4. **Location affected by action:** NE SW NE SEC 20, T17N, R04E CASCADE COUNTY
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** THE DNRC SHALL ISSUE AN AUTHORIZATION TO CHANGE IF AN APPLICANT PROVES THE CRITERIA IN 85-2-402, MCA ARE MET. THIS APPLICATION IS TO REPLACE AN EXISTING WELL LOCATED IN THE NE SW NE SEC 20, T17N, R04E CASCADE COUNTY WITH A NEW WELL LOCATED IN THE NE SW NE SEC 20 T17N, R04E CASCADE COUNTY. THE EXISTING RIGHT WAS FOR 30 GPM UP TO 5.44 ACRE-FEET FOR DOMESTIC AND STOCK WATER.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**  
State Historic Preservation Office

**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

The new well is located in an existing farm yard and as such it is unlikely that there are any undisturbed unique geologic structures present. Soil quality may be slightly impacted in the immediate area of the well head.

**Erosion:**

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

NO 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

Vegetation at the new well site will be impacted, but the area will recover on its own even if not reseeded. Any noxious weeds can be easily controlled due to the relatively small area of disturbance. Since this is an existing farmyard it is doubtful that there are any endangered species present.

**Air:**

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

NO IMPACT

**Water:**

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

NO LIKELY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The well was constructed by a licensed well driller according to Montana well construction standards and as such should have no impact on groundwater quality. The applicant states that the old well has been abandoned, but there is no documentation as to how it was abandoned. Since the new well is replacing the old well, and since the use has not increased over that used historically, water quantity should not be affected.

**Floodplain:**

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

NO 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

New well is in an established farmyard so if there is an impact it is no greater than what was already existing.

**Endangered Species:**

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

New well is in an established farmyard so if there is an impact it is no greater than what was already existing.

<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>
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**Existing Land Use:**

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

NO IMPACT

**Historical Significance:**

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

NO IMPACT

The State Historic Preservation Office found no record of any recorded historic properties in the identified area.

**Populace:**

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

NO IMPACT

**Transportation:**

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

NO IMPACT

**Safety:**

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

NO IMPACT

**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 IMPACT

**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 IMPACT

**Aesthetics:**

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

NO IMPACT

**Other:**

NO IMPACT

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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 inadequate water for the applicant's domestic and stockwatering needs and would require him to find an alternative source of supply.

**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. THIS IS FOR A REPLACEMENT WELL.

PREPARED BY:

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TITLE: PROGRAM ASSISTANT  
DATE: [Automatic date code removed]