

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

Revised 10-00

Note: Instructions to DNRC staff for preparing this EA can be found at:
http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/eis_ea.html

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. **Applicant/Contact name and address: Gene Riddell**
2. **Type of action: INSTALL A WELL**
- 3.
4. **Water source name: GROUNDWATER**
5. **Location affected by action: SEC 30, N ½ SEC 31, S ½ SEC 19, W ½ SEC 29, T 11 S R 2E; W1/2 SEC 25, SESE SEC 24, NENE SEC 36**
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:**
7. **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. A WELL WILL BE DRILLED TO PROVIDE WATER TO 36 RV SITES AND 14 CABINS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THIS SITE IS 25 MILES WEST OF THE YELLOWSTONE CONTROLLED GROUNDWATER AREA.**
8. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment: NRCS, SHPO, ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS OFFICE-HELENA,**

Part II. Environmental Review

1. Environmental Impact Checklist:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Water quantity, quality and distribution

Water quantity: Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

Determination: See below as to groundwater

Water quality: Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.

Determination: See below as to groundwater

Groundwater: Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.

Determination: DURING THE PUMP TEST LOCAL WELLS SHOWED NO CONSIDERABLE DRAWDOWN EXCEPT FROM USE FROM THOSE WELLS. DNRC REGULATIONS REQUIRE A BACK FLOW PREVENTION DEVICE AS A CONDITION OF ISSUENCE OF A PERMIT TO INSURE NO IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY.

Diversions works

Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.

Determination: THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS WELL WAS COMPLETED ON 5/06/97. THE DRILLER LISENCE #557. AS THIS PROJECT IS UTILIZING GROUND WATER, THERE WILL BE NO CHANNEL IMPACTS, FLOW MODIFICATIONS, BARRIERS OR IMPACTS TO RIPARIAN AREAS.

Unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources

Endangered and threatened species: Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or "species of special concern."

Determination: ACCORDING TO THE MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, THERE ARE NO THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES, OR SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN, WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

Wetlands: Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.

Determination. NO KNOWN WETLANDS EXIST IN THE PROJECT AREA

Ponds: For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.

Determination: NOT APPLICABLE - THIS APPLICATION WILL BE USING GROUNDWATER.

Geology/Soil quality, stability and moisture

Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.

Determination: UPON PHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE NRCS THERE APPEARS TO BE NO ISSUES IN THIS AREA WITH THE SOIL. SOURCE OF CONTACT: TONY, BOZEMAN, MT FIELD OFFICE.

Vegetation cover, quantity and quality/Noxious weeds

Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.

Determination: Because this is a well, a very limited amount of soil will be exposed. The exposed area to noxious weeds should be minimal.

Air quality

Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.

Determination: none foreseen

Historical and archeological sites

Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Determination: THIS WELL WILL BE DRILLED IN AN ALREDY DEVELOPED SITE. NO NEGATIVE IMPACTS SHOULD OCCUR.

Demands on environmental resources of land, water, and energy

Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.

Determination: This well is designed to supply water to a RV resort. In a RV resort multiple families in a dense area send raw sewage and leaking hydrocarbons from their vehicles to nearby watersheds. I must interject that this area in near one of the most ecologically sensitive areas in not just Montana but possibly the earth. Any further development around this critical area should be discouraged.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Locally adopted environmental plans and goals

Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

Determination: THE RV PARK RECEIVED COUNTY APPROVAL. IT WAS APPROVED AS A SUBDIVISION. THE COUNTY PLANNER FOR MADISON COUNTY IS DORIS FISCHER. IT IS THEREFORE ACCEPTED AND CONCURRENT WITH LOCAL POLICIES.

Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities

Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

Determination: INCREASED NOISE, DUST, EXHAUST, VEHICLE FLUIDS, RAW SEWAGE AND TRAFFIC WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THIS AREA.

Human health

Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

Determination: THE NEW SUBDIVISION MAY EXACERBATE THE BREEDING OF FLIES, MOSQUITOS AND MICE. HUMAN PATHOGENS MAY TAKE HOLD IN THIS ENVIRONMENT.

Other human environmental issues

For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.

Impacts on:

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity ? NONE FORSEEN
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues ? WILL BE INCREASED
- (c) Existing land uses ? WILL BE INCREASED
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment ? WILL BE INCREASED
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing ? WILL BE INCREASED
- (f) Demands for government services ? WILL BE INCREASED
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity ? WILL BE INCREASED
- (h) Utilities ? WILL BE INCREASED
- (i) Transportation ? **WILL BE INCREASED**
- (j) Safety ? **WILL BE DECREASED**
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances ? UNKNOWN

2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population: REMOVAL OF NATIVE VEGATATION, SLOPE, AND SOIL WILL BE REMOVED TO CREATE CABIN AND RV SITES. THIS COULD LEAD TO INCREASED SILTATION TO STREAMS AND WEEDS. A SINGLE WELL MAY HAVE LITTLE OR NO IMPACT. HOWEVER THE POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED DEVELOPMENT OCCURS WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES AND THEREFORE LEADING TO AN UNKNOWN MAGNATUDE OF IMPACT.**

3. **Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider: A RV SITE COULD HAVE BEEN BUILT NEAR A LARGER COMMUNITY WITH MORE EFFICIENT WASTE DISPOSAL TECHNIQUES.**

PART III. Conclusion

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? PROBABLY NOT

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action: MADISON COUNTY HAS APPROVED THIS AREA FOR A SUBDIVISION. AN EA IS ADEQUATE FOR THIS ACTION BECAUSE THERE WILL BE NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS; THEREFORE AN EIS IS NOT REQUIRED.

Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:

Name: PORTER L. DASSENKO
Title: WATER RESOURCE SPECIALIST
Date: 11/27/00

Name:
Title:
Date: