

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact**

Revised 11-00

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. **Applicant/Contact name and address: JERRY B. MORAN  
402 BADGER SQUARE  
LAUREL, MT 59044**
2. **Type of action: WATER RIGHT CHANGE APPLICATION NO. 43QJ G(C)003153**
3. **Water source name: GROUNDWATER**
4. **Location affected by action: W2SW SECTION 16, T2S, R24E, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, LOT 2, BLOCK 3, QUESENBERRY SUBDIVISION**
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits: THIS CHANGE IS A REPLACEMENT WELL FOR A DOMESTIC WELL IN WHICH THE DRAW PIPE BECAME STUCK. THE NEW WELL WAS DRILLED IN JULY, 2000 AND IS LOCATED 4 FEET WEST FROM THE ORIGINAL 1974 WELL. THE NEW WELL WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE WATER FOR DOMESTIC USE. THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN THE FLOW RATE OR VOLUME FROM PAST USE.**  
  
**THE LOCATION OF THE NEW WELL IS IN THE W2SW SECTION 16, T2S, R24E, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY. THE PROJECT HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND THE NEW WELL IS CURRENTLY IN USE.**  
  
**THE DNRC SHALL ISSUE AN AUTHORIZATION TO CHANGE IF THE APPLICANT PROVES THE CRITERIA IN 85-2-402 ARE MET.**
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment: (include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)**  
  
**NONE**

Part II. Environmental Review

1. Environmental Impact Checklist:

<b>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>
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**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: THIS CHANGE APPLICATION WILL BE UTILIZING GROUNDWATER FROM A DEPTH OF 26 FEET AT A RATE OF 10 GPM. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT IT WOULD HAVE ANY IMPACT ON SURFACE WATER FLOWS.

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: THIS CHANGE APPLICATION WILL BE UTILIZING GROUNDWATER FROM A DEPTH OF 26 FEET AT A RATE OF 10 GPM. THE PROJECT WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON ANY LISTED (WATER QUALITY IMPAIRED OR THREATENED) STREAMS.

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: THIS IS A REPLACEMENT WELL. THE REPLACEMENT WELL IS LOCATED 4 FEET FROM THE ORIGINAL WELL IN THE SAME AQUIFER. THERE IS NO INCREASE IN THE FLOW RATE WITH THE NEW WELL. THE ORIGINAL WELL HAD BEEN USED SINCE 1974 FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT IT WOULD HAVE ANY IMPACT ON SURFACE WATER FLOWS.

**Diversion 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 THE WELL WAS COMPLETED IN JULY, 2000 BY A MONTANA LICENSED WELL DRILLER. AS THIS PROJECT IS UTILIZING GROUNDWATER, 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: THE DRILLING OF THIS REPLACEMENT WELL WITHIN THE YARD OF A HOME LOCATED IN A SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON THE WILDLIFE OF THE 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 – GROUNDWATER APPLICATION

### **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: THE DRILLING OF THIS REPLACEMENT WELL WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON THE SOIL QUALITY, SOIL STABILITY OR MOISTURE CONTENT.

### **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: THERE WAS SOME MINOR GROUND DISTURBANCE AT THE TIME THE WELL WAS DRILLED WHICH HAS PROBABLY SINCE BEEN RECLAIMED. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROPERTY OWNER TO CONTROL ANY NOXIOUS WEEDS ON THEIR PROPERTY.

### **Air quality**

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

Determination: THE DRILLING OF THE REPLACEMENT WELL WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON THE AIR QUALITY.

### **Historical and archeological sites**

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

Determination: THE LOCATION OF THIS WELL IS WITHIN THE YARD OF A HOME IN A SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY UNIQUE ARCHEOLOGICAL OR HISTORICAL SITES WERE DISTURBED.

**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: NO ADDITIONAL IIMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES WERE IDENTIFIED.

<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>
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**Locally adopted environmental plans and goals**

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

Determination: THERE ARE NO KNOWN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS OR GOALS IN THIS AREA.

**Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities**

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

Determination: THIS REPLACEMENT WELL WILL HAVE NO IIMPACT ON RECREATIONAL OR WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES.

**Human health**

Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

Determination: THIS REPLACEMENT WELL WILL HAVE NO IMPACT ON HUMAN HEALTH.

**Private property**

Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights. Yes\_\_\_ No\_X. If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

Determination: THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT REGULATORY IMPACTS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS WELL.

## **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 ? NO IMPACT
  - (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues ? NO IMPACT
  - (c) Existing land uses ? NO IMPACT
  - (d) Quantity and distribution of employment ? NO IMPACT
  - (e) Distribution and density of population and housing ? NO IMPACT
  - (f) Demands for government services ? NO IMPACT
  - (g) Industrial and commercial activity ? NO IMPACT
  - (h) Utilities ? NO IMPACT
  - (i) Transportation ? NO IMPACT
  - (j) Safety ? NO IMPACT
  - (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances ? NO IMPACT
2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:** NO SECONDARY OR CUMMULATIVE IMPACTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED.
3. **Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:** NONE
4. **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:** UNDER THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE, THE APPLICANT WOULD NOT HAVE THE BENEFIT OF A REPLACEMENT WELL FOR THEIR DOMESTIC USE.

## PART III. Conclusion

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

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

Name: KARLA BORNHOFT

Title: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST

Date: DECEMBER 21, 2000

Name:

Title:

Date: