

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Square Butte Bench Water System Improvement Project.	Proposed Implementation Date: December 1, 2004.
Proponent: Delta Engineering P.C., Great Falls, Mt.	
Type and Purpose of Action: Geraldine Water System Improvements-Phase II- Tank location and Transmission Main. This project includes a new proposed water well. The proposed project will drill a new municipal well, which will reduce and/or eliminate the usage of the deep wells within the town limits. The project will construct a 200,000 gallon water storage tank, and replace approximately 2,850 feet of undersized, 2 inch main distribution lines.	
Location: Sec. 34, T21N, R12E.	County: Chouteau.

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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	Mt. DNRC; Shawn Arthur, P.E., Delta Engineering, Annmarie Robinson, Project Coordinator, Mt. DEQ; Meissner Ranches, Inc., state lessee of State Lease #9415; Karl Christians, CFM, Floodplain Management Section Supervisor, Water Operations Bureau; USDA-NRCS, Henry E. Burkwhat, DC; Pete Brown, Historic Architecture Specialist, Mt. SHPO; Monica Rice, Mayor of Geraldine.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	The "No Action" alternative. The alternative to construct the proposed Water System Improvement Project.

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geological features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	[Y] Clayey soils are present. They are compactable. This project will not have an adverse effect upon this soil characteristic though. Sagedale silty clay loam are located at the well site. The tank site is Vida-Williams Loam. The transmission line is Cabb-
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IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Macer loam. These sit upon unweathered bed rock between 15 and 60 inches.
5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?	[Y] The new well should provide good ground water for the water system. If the well is not a producer, the tank & pipeline system will still be constructed. Water from existing wells will be utilized. The project proposes beneficial development of a ground water aquifer at a depth of 1,900 feet.
6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[N] Pollutants and particulates should not be produced by this operation.
7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[Y] In the water storage tank area vegetation will be covered. The rest of the project will have little effect upon vegetation. There are no rare plants or cover types present.
8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[N] There is some use by local wildlife, but it is not substantial.
9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?	[N] There are no species of special concern that utilize this area that I am aware of.
10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archeological, or paleontological resources present?	[N] There are no historical, paleontological or archaeological resources present. The State Historic Preservation Office conducted a cultural resource file search and found no previously recorded historic or archaeological sites.
11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographical feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	[N] This project will not be visible from populated areas. There will not be any excessive noise or light associated with it.

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

12.	DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[Y] Water is a limited resource that will be utilized.
13.	OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N] There are no other plans for this area that I am aware of.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

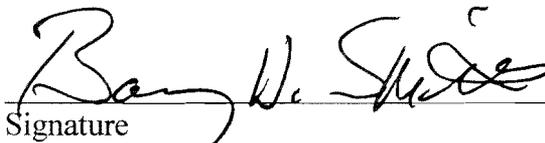
14.	HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risk in the area?	[N] The existing well water violates the EPA Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Regulations. The town's water storage tank is insufficient to meet the single day peak demand, plus fire storage. The intent of the project is to eliminate the need for the existing wells.
15.	INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] Industrial activities will increase for project construction.
16.	QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N] There may be some new jobs, but I am not aware of any.
17.	LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N] No change is anticipated.
18.	DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?	[N] Other services will not be required.
19.	LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] None.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	[Y] There is some limited recreational hunting opportunities within this tract.
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	[N] Additional housing will not be required.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] Disruption is not likely.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] There should not be any shift.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:	[Y] The purpose of the project is to provide an additional well source that will provide a safe and reliable supply of water. The existing 100,000 gallon storage tank does not provide any fire storage.

EA Checklist Prepared By:

BARNY D. SMITH, Lewistown Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office



Signature

Date: Nov. 18, 2004

IV. FINDING

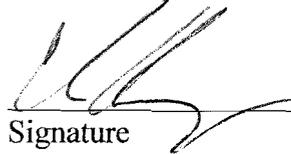
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	The alternative to construct the proposed Water System Improvement Project.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Minimal negative impacts are expected with this project. Human health and safety for Geraldine and Square Butte will be enhanced from this project. The expected positive impacts from this proposed project are a more and safer water supply for the communities.

IV. FINDING

27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:

EIS More Detailed EA No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved by:
CLIVE ROONEY, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office


Signature
Date: 11/17/14