

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Water Resources Division
Water Rights Bureau

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

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:*
Town of Manhattan
PO box 96
Manhattan, MT 59741

2. *Type of action:* Application for a beneficial water use permit # 30021840-41H

3. *Water source name:* Groundwater

4. *Location affected by project:* NENWSW Sec. 3, T1N, R3E, Gallatin, Co.

5. *Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*
The town of Manhattan is installing two wells to supply the town and increased development that is occurring. Specifically the water being sought will provide water to 263 residential lots as part of Pioneer Crossing and Centennial Village subdivision.

6. *Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)*
MONTANA STATE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICE
MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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: The source of water is groundwater. Not identified by DFWP.

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: The source of water is groundwater, not on the DEQ list.

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: The use is municipal and is exempt from basin closure requirements.

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 diversion works are two wells capable of not exceeding 347 gpm.

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: This project should not significantly impact any threatened or endangered or species of special concern.

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: According to the National Wetland Inventory there are no wetlands located within a half mile of the well.

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

Determination: This project does not involve any pond development.

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: It is unlikely that saline seep would be found in this area. The drilling of these wells will not degrade soil quality; alter 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: Existing vegetative cover will be altered by this new subdivision in the expansion of the town. Houses, garages, driveways, lawns and gardens will replace the existing vegetation. Noxious weeds may spread if the lot owners do not control them.

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

Determination: Air quality may be altered if any of the homeowners have woodstoves, or fireplaces. Additional vehicles will create additional auto emissions.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES - *Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project.*

Determination: SHPO was contacted. Their records indicate there have been no previously recorded historic or archaeological sites within the designated search locale. They recommend that a cultural resource inventory be conducted.

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 impacts on other environmental resources were identified.

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 Gallatin County Planning Board has no restrictions against supplying a town with public water supply wells.

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: This project is located in a town, with no access to recreational or wilderness activities. No impact is expected.

HUMAN HEALTH - *Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.*

Determination: No impact on human health is expected.

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: The project is on private property.

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 impacts identified.
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- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? No impacts identified.
- (c) Existing land uses? No impacts identified.
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? No impacts identified.
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? No impacts identified.
- (f) Demands for government services? No impacts identified.
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? No impacts identified.
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- (h) Utilities? No impacts identified
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- (i) Transportation? No impacts identified
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- (j) Safety? No impacts identified
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances?

2. Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:

Secondary Impacts No secondary impacts have been identified

Cumulative Impacts No cumulative impacts have been identified

3. ***Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:*** Mitigation or stipulation measures are not planned at this time.

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:***

PART III. Conclusion

1. ***Preferred Alternative:*** None identified at this time.

2. ***Comments and Responses :*** *No comments or responses were received at this time.*

3. ***Finding:***

Yes___ No_x__ 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: An EA is adequate for this project.

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

Name: Porter Dassenko

Title: WRS

Date: 5/23/2006