

ME&A

Montana Engineering and Administration, P.C.

Providing Water and Wastewater Engineering
Services for Municipalities Across Montana

Phone: 406 652-5000

Fax: 406 248-1363

Cellular Phone: 406 855-3575

115 N. Broadway, Suite 202
Billings, MT 59101

Email: pmurtagh@montanaea.com

January 20, 2006

RECEIVED

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Montana Environmental Quality Council
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

RE: Request for Input for an Environmental Assessment for the Town of Melstone Water System Improvements; New Test Wells

Dear Reviewer:

The Town of Melstone has been working towards making improvements to their water system. The Town would like to eliminate their reliance on the Musselshell River (if possible) through utilizing an all groundwater source. The Town currently has two wells that when combined are capable of meeting average day demands.

The Town also drilled two additional wells recommended by an experienced hydrogeologist, hoping to find the Fox Hills formation to supplement their water supply. However, in both locations, the Fox Hills aquifer was found to be washed out.

There is one last area in which research shows may prove to have the quality and capacity needed to supplement the Town's water source. The area is about 10 miles west (and slightly south) of Melstone and slightly northeast of Musselshell in the southwest quarter of Section 14 and southeast quarter of Section 15 of T9N, R29E. The Town is proposing to drill a test well within this area to determine whether or not a well in this area would be worth pursuing. The attached map highlights the area in which a test well may be drilled. It should be noted that any test well would be located more than 400 feet from the Musselshell River. The actual disturbed area would be limited to less than 200 square feet.

Please review the proposed improvements and let us know if you have any environmental concerns resulting from the proposed project. If we do not receive any comments within 30 days of the date of this letter, we will assume that you have no comments. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Crystal Bennett, EI

Enclosures: Map of Project Area



