

NOTICE

NOTICE TO GROUNDWATER USERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS: NOTICE OF HEARING FOR DESIGNATION OF A CONTROLLED GROUNDWATER AREA IN THE EAST VALLEY AREA NEAR EAST HELENA, MT. A hearing before the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) on proposed rules for a controlled groundwater area will be held in the Fred Buck Conference Room (bottom floor), Water Resources Building, 1424 Ninth Avenue, Helena, Montana on **December 10, 2015** at **1:00 p.m.** Concerned persons may submit their data, views, or arguments, either orally or in writing, at the hearing. Written data, views, or arguments may also be submitted in writing to Millie Heffner, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, 1424 Ninth Avenue, PO Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601; fax (406) 444-0533; or e-mail mheffner@mt.gov, and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 10, 2015.

Montana Code Annotated (MCA) § 85-2-506 authorizes the department to designate temporary or permanent controlled groundwater areas. A petition to designate a controlled groundwater area was filed with the department by Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department on August 25, 2014. Data collected within the boundaries of the East Valley Controlled Groundwater Area indicate arsenic and selenium contamination, primarily from the former smelter, in the groundwater of Helena Valley alluvial aquifer. Concentrations in Zone 1 exceed human health standards. Contaminant concentrations on Zone 2 do not currently exceed human health standards but exceedances may occur due to future groundwater withdrawals or changes in the hydrogeologic system. The city of East Helena has established a moratorium zone on all new wells. Additional pumping from the aquifer is likely to increase the spread of the contaminant plumes. The proposed CGWA controls for Zone 1 and Zone 2 include monitoring requirements and restrictions on new groundwater appropriations and changes to existing groundwater appropriations necessary to protect human health and safety.

The proposal notice of the rules for designation of the East Valley Controlled Groundwater Area will be published by the Secretary of State in the Montana Administrative Register on November 12, 2015. An unofficial copy of the proposal notice and other documents such as a map and Petition of the EVCGWA are available through DNRC's website at:
<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/water-rights/controlled-ground-water-areas/east-valley>

The Department makes reasonable accommodation for any disability that may interfere with an individual's ability to attend this hearing. For consideration of any such accommodation, please contact Millie Heffner at 406-444-0581 no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 3, 2015.

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