

- Exhibit A-7 -

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
MISSOULA WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL OFFICE**



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

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P.O. BOX 5004

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 721-4284
FAX (406) 542-1496

MISSOULA, MONTANA 59806-5004

RECEIVED

April 3, 2006

Landworks Consulting & Design, Inc.
PO Box 7908
Missoula, MT 59807

APR 04 2006
1C-0604512
Ravalli County Planning Dept.

RE: Proposed Legacy Ranch – Master Planned Community

Dear Mr. Rice:

I reviewed the notice you sent regarding the above mentioned proposed subdivision. My comments are limited to potential water right issues.

I understand that domestic water will be provided by a community water system and the source will be groundwater wells. A Beneficial Water Use permit will be required for this system, as governed by the Montana Water Use Act. The Application For a Beneficial Water Use Permit (Form 600) should be submitted to this office well in advance of when you anticipate water use will start. Applications are processed in the order they are received. Depending on the number of applications ahead of yours and the quality of the application, processing will likely take at least six months. If objections are received, the timeframe for the process can be greatly extended.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has adopted administrative rules that list the requirements of a correct and complete water right application. There is a specific section related to aquifer testing (36.12.121 ARM) that describes the minimum standards acceptable for well testing for a water right application. If you are not familiar with these new rules, they are available on our website at: http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/water_rts/default.asp#nai

The subdivision area is covered by irrigation water right claim(s). The provisions of 76-3-504(i) are applicable and provide options for dealing with the water rights.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 721-4284 or e-mail at bischultz@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Schultz".

Bill Schultz
Regional Manager

Cc: Ravalli Co. Planning Dept.