

CROW BUTTE RESOURCES, INC.



Environmental Report Marsland Expansion Area

communication among the production zone mining and exterior monitor wells, and to further evaluate the hydrologic properties of the basal sandstone of the Chadron Formation.

The Industrial Groundwater Use Permit application for the existing Mill Creek in the City of Crawford (approximately 3 miles [4.8 km] north west of the mining area) could potentially be impacted by approximately 20 feet by consumptive withdrawal of water from the basal sandstone of the Chadron Formation during mining and restoration operations (based on a 20-year operational period). In contrast, Marsland, which is located approximately 4.6 miles (7.4 km) southwest of the MEA (centerpoint of Town of Marsland to centerpoint of MEA satellite building). There is no public water supply for the community of Marsland, with residences scattered throughout the MEA AOR being supplied with domestic water from private wells. Private well use is discussed in more detail in Section 3.4.1, and impacts to water levels are discussed in Section 4.14.3.6.

Deleted: A full and detailed analysis of the potential impacts of the mining operations at the MEA on surrounding water users will be provided in an Industrial Groundwater Use Permit application. A similar permit application was submitted by Ferret Exploration of Nebraska (predecessor to CBR) in 1991.
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Although similar impacts to water levels in the basal sandstone of the Chadron Formation are expected at the MEA, documented existing use of the basal sandstone of the Chadron Formation in the proposed MEA or associated AOR.

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Because the basal sandstone of the Chadron Formation (production zone) is a deep confined aquifer, no surface water impacts are expected. Based on available information, all water supply wells within the MEA and AOR are completed in the relatively shallow Arikaree and/or Brule Formation, with no domestic or agricultural use of groundwater from the basal sandstone of the Chadron Formation.

Further, the geologic and hydrologic data presented in Sections 3.3 and 3.4, respectively, demonstrate that (1) uranium mineralization is limited to the basal sandstone of the Chadron Formation, and (2) the basal sandstone of the Chadron Formation is isolated from underlying and overlying sands. Hence, the mining operations are expected to impact water quality only in the basal sandstone of the Chadron Formation, and restoration operations will be conducted in the basal sandstone of the Chadron Formation following completion of mining.

Based on a bleed of 0.5 to 2.0 percent, the potential impact from consumptive use of groundwater is expected to be minimal. A bleed of 0.5 to 1.5 percent has been successfully applied in the current licensed area. In this regard, the vast majority (on the order of 98 percent) of groundwater used in the mining process will be treated and re-injected (Figure 1.3-7). Potential impacts on ground water quality due to consumptive use outside the license area are expected to be negligible.

The data were evaluated using a Theis semi-steady state analytical solution, which includes the following assumptions:

- The aquifer is confined and has apparent infinite extent.
- The aquifer is homogeneous and isotropic, and of uniform effective thickness over the area influenced by pumping.
- The piezometric surface is horizontal prior to pumping.
- The well is pumped at a constant rate.

