

MEMORANDUM

To: Water Right Permit 96-9639 & 96-9743

From: Luke Bates 

Date: 4/23/2021

Re: Application for a Permit to Appropriate Water within the State of Idaho.

A field exam for Permit 96-9639 was performed on 9/24/2020 with the applicant's representative, Mike Tacoma, to validate domestic and irrigation beneficial uses. During the exam, it was identified that the diversion system incorporates 4 inch piping from the Unnamed Stream source that is the main line for both Permits 96-9639 and 96-9743. Flow measurements for domestic and irrigation beneficial uses covered on permit 96-9639 were excessively high in relation to permit approved values, attributed to the head pressure associated with the hydropower system being developed under permit 96-9743.

A request for extension of time was submitted for 96-9743 by the applicant on 5/10/2020, and approved by the Department on 5/18/2020 extending the proof of beneficial use date to 6/1/2024. On the request for extension form, it states that "all piping is done except for final hookup..." with a cost of \$3,000.00 annotated to finalize the project. This cost correlates with the price of micro-hydropower systems using Harris models as an example.

Due to both permits using the common diversion line, if the hydropower unit is not service connected there is potential for water to divert unrestricted bypassing the power unit, resulting in skewed diversion rates for 96-9639 (domestic & irrigation).

I recommend that a second field exam be performed for permit 96-9639 be completed once the statement of completion for permit 96-9743 to ensure the diversion system is set up to operate as intended for all beneficial uses, and ensure better accuracy for diversion rates per beneficial use between permits.



Luke Bates

Water Resource Agent

Northern Region