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AUG 24 2020

WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

August 17, 2020

Idaho Department of Water Resources
2735 Airport Way
Boise, Idaho 83705
ATTN: Director of the Western Region Office

RE: Application 67-15360

To Whom it May Concern:

We are submitting a letter of protest against the approval of the Application for Permit #67-15360 submitted by Paul and Gayle Poorman (Applicants), of Meridian, Idaho. We believe that approval of this permit on their Cambridge property would cause injury and interference to our existing water rights #67-4208 (priority date 1918) and #67-14095 (priority date 1911) as the drainages of the spring snowmelt and runoff cross through our ditch to deposit into Rush Creek.

We noted that Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) separated each location of use from the Applicants initial permit application into 4 individual filings and renamed the source of water to an unnamed stream, with the exception of the so-called Rush Creek Spring. Applicants state the sources of water are Kohlhepp Draw and Edwards Draw. These are names given to the drainages by the Applicants. Neither is a USGS-recognized source of natural flow nor is Rush Creek Spring a documented recognizable source of water. These are not natural watercourses. They are drainages for snowmelt and runoff that goes into Rush Creek in the spring-time. Applicants state in their application that it is for "Spring snowmelt-surface". This is a short-lived source of water that occurs after the initial flush of snowmelt that tapers off over a period of a few weeks depending upon the amount of snowfall for the season. Runoff is generally gone by late March to mid-April.

Our ditch has captured diffused surface water from the Applicants property since it was constructed and granted a water permit from the Idaho State Engineer in 1911. Our water rights are for flood irrigation between 3/15 – 10/31 and a year-round stockwater right from Rush Creek. Each spring we set crossover tarps in our ditch to close the opening where the drainages cross through our ditch on Applicants property for our water delivery. Late in the year before the ground freezes we open these drainages to protect our ditch from the initial flush of runoff from snowmelt that occurs late winter and conditions prevent safe inspection of our ditch.

Applicants claim that our crossover tarps are 'illegal diversions' and yet are seeking protected water rights for diffused surface water in an attempt to interfere with our access, use and operation of our ditch and try to prevent us from setting our crossover tarps in the spring for our water rights until the ending date of May 31.

Below are concerns we have regarding their application:

#4 Location of point(s) of diversion

The Applicants states the source of water is "Rush Creek Spring" which is not a USGS recognized source of natural flow water. We have never seen any significant flow of water appearing year-round from any 'spring' in the drainage which would naturally be intercepted by our ditch if such spring

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existed. Nor do Applicants submit any flow measurements taken from this 'spring'. Again, it is the same diffused surface water from spring snowmelt and rains. And, as stated above, the amount of flow will vary year-to-year based upon the weather and the amount of precipitation over the season. A water permit is not needed for diffused surface water.

Maps:

The two maps submitted for this Application for Permit have discrepancies between them as to where the actual point of diversion (POD) and the point of use (POU) are located.

The 8" x 10" satellite map appears to show that the POD may be located on the Edwards property to the north of the Applicants property. The lower portion of the POU appears to encompass the entire section of our ditch that falls down the hillside, the intersection of our ditch and drainage (crossover) and the ditch as it travels to the south through a culvert under the driveway/access road.

The 3-1/4" x 3-1/2" topography map within their application is very small and difficult to view. The small illustration of the POU and placement of the storage tank appear to cause interference with our delivery of water, use of equipment and personel, and our ability to use, access and operate our ditch. The storage tanks appears to be somewhere in the ditch and drainage crossover area, in the ditch before it crosses under the driveway/access road or in the middle of one of the access points to our ditch and right of way.

Again, Applicants do not show the accurate location of the tank, pump and plastic pipe as to not interfere with our access, use and operation of our irrigation ditch or injure the delivery of our water. What precautions and safeguards will the Applicants propose to use to protect our ditch from failure of their diversion or storage, causing damage to our ditch and right of way?

#5 Water will be used for the following purposes:

.05 cfs for Irrigation purposes from Mar 1 to May 31

There is a discrepancy as to the actual dates of usage between the Applicants permit filed with IDWR and the Applicants Notice of Publication and the Water Report on IDWR's website. The date of beneficial use on the Water Right Report dated 6/22/2020 states from 04/01 to 05/31. The Legal Notice published in the The Record-Reporter published August 5, 2020 and August 12, 2020 show the dates of Irrigation Use are 04/01 to 05/31. The original Application for Permit states 03/01 to 05/31. Which dates are being applied to the application? Season of Use for our area of Water District #67 begins on March 15 not March 1 per IDWR Map and GIS Date Hub Season of Use map. Our area is listed as OBJECTID 40.

This application requests diffused surface water for storage to irrigate not irrigation alone. This application should be a permit for Storage for Irrigation, Irrigation from Storage. And because it is for storage for irrigation, are these the dates of appropriation for storage? What are the dates for beneficial use from storage for irrigation? The explanation 'to get through the hot summer months' is not very specific. The application does not state how much water would be appropriated for irrigation from storage nor does it include any detail for refill and how it would be regulated.

What authority has measured the spring source to prove that this is a sufficient water source to meet the Applicants request of .05cfs through May 31?

#7 Proposed diverting works:

(a) 1.0" - 1.25" diameter plastic pipe will be placed in the draws to collect water which will then be diverted to 500 gallon storage tanks with solar pumps.

Applicants are requesting permit to divert diffused surface water to storage. Applicants have failed to prove that runoff conditions are sufficient for this type of storage. Even if the amount of snowmelt was sufficient a 500-gallon storage tank would be full at .05 cfs (22.44 gallons per minute) within 23 minutes. Applicants do not include the type of storage tank being proposed. Are they enclosed to prevent loss due to evaporation? Are the enclosed tanks designed with a check valve to release pressure for fill? Are these tanks open stock tanks that would incur evaporation? And when the diffused surface water source (snowmelt) has stopped months before the 'hot summer months' arrive, would the available stored water, including evaporation losses, if any, be sufficient for irrigation during this time? Do Applicants propose to dam up the 'draw' to divert water into the plastic pipe to the storage tanks? If so, what precautions will be put in place to protect the our ditch from failure of diversion or alteration of the runoff flow causing erosion to our ditch or crossovers?

Where exactly are the placements of the plastic pipe, pump and storage tank in relation to our ditch and right of way?

Applicants are requesting for a permit saved for natural flow water rights on storage of diffused surface water, an unreliable and inconsistent source of water – 'Spring snowmelt-surface'. Again, the application states it would be stored water to be used in 'hot summer months' but yet Applicants do not disclose dates of irrigation from storage, how the storage tank would be refilled during this period of storage, if any, and how it would be regulated when used for irrigation or the amount to be diverted from storage. The Applicants do not supply the make, model or flow rates of the solar pumps they claim will be used. Will they be sufficient for delivery?

What types of solar pumps are being proposed? Are they sufficient to supply the stored water for irrigation in the "hot summer months" to the pine trees that Applicants are proposing to plant? Will they be capable of pumping the water the distance needed or are Applicants planning on planting this forest close to our irrigation ditch to damage and injure our ditch in the future and to steal water when their stored water runs out in the "hot summer months" like they have in the past?

(e) Irrigation water to be used to water pine, douglas fir, and larch trees for future lumber harvest.

The POU on the two maps do not appear to match but yet both do show that portions of the POU involve our ditch, embankments, right of way and access points for their pine tree plantings. Applicants have been repeatedly asked and told not to plant ponderosa pines or any other kind of vegetation in our ditch, on our ditch, next to our ditch or on our embankments because the expansive root systems will grow into our earthen ditch and embankments which would result in damage to the integrity of the ditch. These plantings would interfere with our access, use and operation of our ditch.

#11 Owners of Property of land to be irrigated or place of use?

Applicants do not disclose to IDWR that an irrigation ditch that does not belong to them crosses through sections of their proposed POU and it does not belong to them. They do not own our ditch or right of way.

#12 Does not describe refill plans for the storage tank to 'remain full enough until late in the season to get the trees through the hot summer months'. Does not disclose if storage tank is a closed system or open to the air which would result in evaporation. Is this a request for a one-time fill and, if not, how many refills will Applicants need to keep storage capacity full? What are the dates that Applicants consider 'hot summer months' and how much water would be appropriated from storage? Who regulates such appropriation? Applicants has not proven that the supply of water from this 'spring' is sufficient to meet their request for storage to meet their needs to 'make it through the hot summer months'.

In conclusion, we are asking IDWR to deny the Application for Permit #67-15360 based upon the following concerns we have in connection with this Application:

1) This proposed appropriation will reduce the quantity of water under existing water rights.

It will directly affect our access to, use and operation of our irrigation and stockwater rights Permit #67-4208 (priority date 1918) and #67-14095 (priority date 1911). Applicants do not need any water right permit to use diffused surface water. The 'Rush Creek Spring' source of water they want to claim is insufficient and inconsistent. They are attempting to create a protected water right for snowmelt/runoff to interfere with our use of a crossover tarp in our ditch to deliver our water rights to our property. They believe that we do not have a right to set our crossover tarps in our ditch until that runoff has completely ceased. They have stated this a past 2015 email to Nick Miller, Western Region Manager of IDWR and in court documents. If they are granted this permit they will prevent our use of crossover tarps across these drainages for our water rights to be delivered until the runoff completely ceases to fulfill their claim that they have a protected right of diffused surface water until May 31, our water rights will be injured.

There are years curtailment on Rush Creek occurs early in the season because of drought or early snowmelt. We are a junior right on Rush Creek and we are the first to be curtailed during drought years on Rush Creek. If we cannot set our crossover tarp until after May 31, it would be damaging to our fields and pastures that have no other water source other than from Rush Creek. It would cause stress, or possibly death, to our cattle to not have water or have to travel long distances under stressful conditions. We calve after the snowmelts, grasses begin to grow and stockwater is extremely important to their well-being and health at the time of calving.

2) This proposed application is incomplete and inaccurate as to the type of use this permit is being requested, the amount of water requested, the type of storage and diverting works from storage, the POD and POU based upon the errors and omissions of the maps and, errors and omissions of time of use of irrigation from storage, amount of diversion from storage and how that would be regulated, errors between the publication and application.

The water source they are asking for is diffused surface water and is "not fed from a natural stream or regular flow of water" nor "percolating waters from a spring". It consists entirely of snowmelt and spring rains. It not a spring source. This drainage crosses through our ditch before depositing into Rush Creek. We do not believe that there is sufficient water for their proposal to store water into "the hot summer months" and will steal water from our ditch using their plastic pipe and solar pumps because of the proximity to our ditch. The storage tank appears to either block our access or block our water flow in our ditch. The season of use for 'irrigation' (from storage) does not establish the

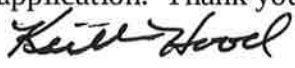
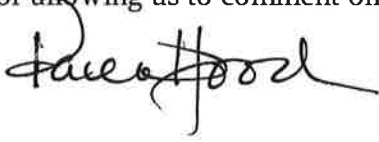
fields and pastures that have no other water source other than from Rush Creek. It would cause stress, or possibly death, to our cattle to not have water or have to travel long distances under stressful conditions. We calve after the snowmelts, grasses begin to grow and stockwater is extremely important to their well-being and health at the time of calving.

2) This proposed application is incomplete and inaccurate as to the type of use this permit is being requested, the amount of water requested, the type of storage and diverting works from storage, the POD and POU based upon the errors and omissions of the maps and the omission of time of use of irrigation from storage, amount of diversion from storage and how that would be regulated.

The water source they are asking for is diffused surface water and is "not fed from a natural stream or regular flow of water" nor "percolating waters from a spring". It consists entirely of snowmelt and spring rains. This drainage crosses through our ditch before depositing into Rush Creek. We do not believe that there is sufficient water for their proposal to store water into "the hot summer months" and will steal water from our ditch using their plastic pipe and solar pumps because of the proximity to our ditch. The season of use for 'irrigation' (from storage) does not establish the sufficiency of the water supply collected from the diffused surface water for the season of use. And does the amount of storage equate to the amount to irrigate annually?

3) We believe this application was not made in good faith and is made for speculative purposes. Applicants claim to want to store the snowmelt to 'nurture (sp) and grow evergreen trees for future lumber harvest". Applicants will never harvest these pine trees in the future. During our recent court case against them for filling in our ditch full of dirt from our embankment, they stated in court, under oath, and in court documents that as part of their estate planning they are donating their property to the Nature Conservancy. They did not purchase their property as an investment, but for the "purpose of restoring the natural habitat" and to "enjoy the aesthetics and intrinsic value of the natural habitat....and ... obtained grants and used their own funds in planting and nurturing trees, bushes, and natural grasses, to restore the natural habitat of the Poorman Property". Ponderosa pines they intentionally planted around our ditch that were removed during our maintenance and clean up of our ditch right-of-way and easement, Applicants stated had no commercial value but an aesthetic value, are now claiming that they want to grow pine trees to harvest in the future? This application is another attempt to interfere with our access, use and operation of our ditch and water rights. The source of water Applicants are requesting is diffused surface water that is insufficient and unreliable and should not be granted a permit as a protected water right. Applicants already have a water right permit for this location under Permit #67-7498. It is not our responsibility to show Applicants how to exercise their existing water right.

We are requesting that this Application for Permit be denied. We strongly protest approval of this application. Thank you for allowing us to comment on this matter,

 
Keith & Karen Hood
Post Office Box 100
Cambridge, Idaho 83610
208-550-3884

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Idaho Department of Water Resources
2735 Airport Way
Boise, Idaho 83705
ATTN: Director of the Western Region Office\


RE: Application for Permit #67-15358
Application for Permit #67-15359
Application for Permit #67-15360
Application for Permit #67-15361
APPLICANTS: PAUL & GAYLE POORMAN
Post Office Box 62
Cambridge, Idaho 83610

Please find enclosed our protests for the above water permit applications filed by Paul & Gayle Poorman of Meridian, Idaho, for their property located in Cambridge, Idaho.

Also enclosed is our protest fee of \$100 (\$25 per protest).

As per IDWR directions stated in the newspaper of publication, a copy of each protest has been sent to the Applicants' address as submitted with their applications.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Keith and Karen Hood. The signature for Keith is written above the signature for Karen.

Keith & Karen Hood
Post Office Box 100
Cambridge, Idaho 83610
208-550-3884