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Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

September 21, 2016

James Cefalo
Idaho Department of Water Resources
900 North Skyline Drive, Suite A
Idaho Falls, ID 83402-1718

Re: Transfer of 35-2824

Dear Mr. Cefalo:

Two transfers are being submitted at this time in the name of Kip and Brandi Hunter. Water right purchase agreements have been entered into by the Hunter's and the property owners at the proposed place of use locations. It is proposed to reduce the total allowed irrigated acres from 121.0 acres to 105 acres.

1st Transfer

The first transfer is proposing to move 59.4 acres of 35-2824 to a farm located at T07S R30E Section 24. This farm has been irrigated by rented water for the last several years. There is an existing well on the property. Potato storage units have been constructed on the property recently, which reduced the number of acres that can be irrigated.

ESPA model analysis has been performed for this transfer and no mitigation is required. The beneficial use and period of use will not be changing.

2nd Transfer

The second transfer proposes to move 45.6 acres to a farm located at T05S R31E Section 26. This farm has a primary ground water right (35-7621) currently located on it. However, 35-7621 has been leased into the Idaho Water Supply Bank for several years. There is an existing ground water well on this farm.

It is anticipated that 35-7621 will be transferred off of this property during the winter months of 2016 and spring of 2017. There is no intentions of stacking or combining any part of 35-2824 with 35-7621.

ESPA model analysis has been performed for this transfer and no mitigation is required. The beneficial use and period of use will not be changing.

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Water right 35-2824 has not been applied to the 121.0 acres within its POU for several years because it has been leased into the Idaho Water Supply bank. The ground water well has been disconnected from the irrigation system. The property has been irrigated by the canal shares provided by the American Falls Aberdeen Canal Company.

Notarized affidavits from Kip Hunter, Kyle Droghei and Geoffrey Steinmetz are attached to this letter regarding the crops grown under the allowed 121.0 acres of 35-2824 from the years 2002 through 2012. The affidavits indicate that alfalfa, pasture grass and grain crops were grown during that period.

The Water Management Information System (WMIS) does not provide any flowmeter data, PCC data or any calibration data for 35-2824. The WMIS database did provide kWh consumed for several years.

Based on the pump design, static water level, friction head loss, total head of the well and pump design efficiency an estimated power consumption was calculated to be 15.76 hp. From that estimated power consumption of 15.6 hp and the amount of kWh consumed, the total run time of the pump can be estimated. Then the estimated run time was multiplied by the design pumping rate of 2.005 cfs for an estimated yearly volume pumped.

The kWh data for 2009 and 2011 should not be included in the average. The affidavits from Kip Hunter, Kyle Droghei and Geoffrey Steinmetz clearly indicate that irrigation occurred in 2009 and 2011. However, the WMIS data shows 0 kWh in 2009 and 147 kWh in 2011. Statistically, these two values are outliers and should not be included in the analysis. Aerial photographs from 2009 and 2011 clearly show that irrigation occurred under 35-2824 but the WMIS data does not support that evidence. The average annual volume, excluding the 2009 and 2011 values, should be 200.3 acre-feet.

A settlement agreement between the participating members of the Surface Water Coalition and the participating members of the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc. was entered into in 2015. This settlement agreement requires participating ground water districts to reduce their overall volume of water pumped from the Snake River Basin Aquifer. The American Falls Aberdeen Ground Water District hired Water Well Consultants to aid in their efforts of accounting for all ground water rights and the calculated volumes pumped historically to satisfy the ground water rights in the American Falls Aberdeen Ground Water District. Water Well Consultants have regularly

recorded and input flowmeter and PCC data into the WMIS database for the American Falls Aberdeen Ground Water District.

Jaxon Higgs of Water Well Consultants stated through email correspondence that the average application rate of ground water for the American Falls Aberdeen Ground Water District is 1.91 ft/acre. (See attached email correspondence)

Three separate water rights in the close vicinity of 35-2824 were examined to determine if the 1.91 ft/acre American Falls Aberdeen Ground Water District is consistent with the local water demands. Water right 35-13071 (WMIS #600027) has an average volume per acre of 1.97 ft/acre. Water right 35-7042 (WMIS #500842) has an average volume per acre of 1.56 ft/acre. Water right 35-2308A (WMIS #500841) has an average volume per acre of 2.34 ft/acre. (See attached spreadsheet analysis and water right information)

Based on the American Falls Aberdeen Ground Water District average volume per acre rate of 1.91 ft/acre, the total acres that could be irrigated by 200.3 acre-feet is 105 acres.

The allowed transferable acres under 35-2824 should be 105 acres with a volume limit of 200.3 acre feet annually.

Please copy our office on all correspondence regarding this application.

Sincerely,



Greg Sullivan, M.S., Engineer

Cc: Kip Hunter

Enc: Transfer Applications, ESPA Model Analysis, Annual Pumping Volume Analysis, Water Use Affidavits, Aerial Maps, Key Bank Letter, Brockway Engineering Check #13587 for \$1,080.00

Idaho Department of Water Resources

WMIS

Water Management Information System



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