

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 27, 2016
To: Transfer 80496
From: James Cefalo
Re: Review & Evaluation of Sufficiency of Information

Transfer Application 80496 proposes to add a point of injection and a point of re-diversion to all Liberty Park Irrigation Company water rights. The proposed point of injection is into Spring Slough, a tributary of Bannock Jim Slough. The proposed point of re-diversion is a shallow ground water well located about 650 feet from the slough. The well has been used for many years to supply company water to Boyd Smith, a shareholder in Liberty Park Irrigation.

Originally, the application proposed simply adding a second point of diversion to the company's rights for the Smith Well. After a hydrologic review by IDWR, it was determined that the transfer would better protect other water users on Spring Slough if the water rights identified a point of injection where Liberty Park Irrigation injects water into Spring Slough and a point of re-diversion for the Smith Well. Liberty Park Irrigation filed an amended application on April 27, 2016.

Applicant's consultant, Rocky Mountain Environmental Associates (RMEA), provided an initial hydrology report attempting to show a strong and immediate hydrologic connection between the shallow ground water well and Spring Slough. IDWR reviewed the report and identified a number of deficiencies in the techniques and calculations in the RMEA report. A memo summarizing IDWR's findings was prepared by Sean Vincent, IDWR Hydrology Section Manager. RMEA provided a revised hydrology report addressing the concerns raised by Sean Vincent. The revised hydrology report sufficiently demonstrated that a strong hydrologic connection likely exists between the ground water well and the slough. The Smith Well draws water out of the slough. The transfer meets IDWR's criteria for diverting surface water from a ground water well.

Authority to File:

Liberty Park Irrigation Company is the owner of record for all of the water rights. Larry Hansen, president of the company, signed the original application and initialed the amended application.

Water Right Validity:

Water rights were decreed in the Snake River Basin Adjudication and have been delivered by Water District 01 continuously since that time.

Injury to Other Water Rights:

In order to prevent injury to other water users on Spring Slough, the transfer will be conditioned to require Liberty Park to inject canal water into Spring Slough in an amount equal to or greater than the amount diverted at the Smith Well on a real-time basis.

Application was advertised and no protests were filed. The amended application did not constitute a significant change in hydrology. The injection site is one that is currently used by Liberty Park. The amended application does not warrant re advertisement. Water District 01 was notified of the transfer, but did not provide comments.

Enlargement of Use:

No enlargement issues identified.

Local Public interest:

No local public interest issues identified.

Review of the application finds there is no clear inconsistency with criteria set forth in Section 42-222 Idaho Code preventing processing of this application.