

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 05, 2014
To: Water Right File 13-7907
From: jcefalo
Re: Low Temp Geothermal

In December 2013, as the proposed domestic well was being drilled, the driller encountered water temps greater than 85 degrees. Idaho Code Section 42-233 requires a permit to use low temp geothermal water. Upon finding warm water, this application was filed and the drilling was suspended.

Section 42-233 requires low temp geothermal water to be used first for heat value and secondarily for other uses. However, the section gives the director of the department the authority to exempt certain uses from the heat-first requirement. To exempt a use, certain criteria must be satisfied.

In this case all three of the criteria listed in Section 42-233 are satisfied. At this time, there are no geothermal projects in this area. This suggests that using the water for heat purposes is not feasible at this time. There is no other source of water for domestic purposes in this area. Springs, which used to supply domestic water to the homes and stock, have gone dry. All of the ground water in this specific area is warmer than 85 degrees. Finally, allowing de minimus diversions from this low temp geothermal area is in the public interest. The reduction or impact to the heat resource is negligible.