



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1341 Fillmore Street, Suite 200, Twin Falls ID 83301-3380

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SOUTHERN REGION

January 27, 2003

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

DAVID R. MEAD
2045 HILLCREST DR
TWIN FALLS ID 83301

78297
RE: Application for Transfer No. ~~70239~~, Water Right No. 71-7126

Dear Mr. Mead:

Enclosed is a copy of a protest filed against approval of the above referenced application. The Department suggests that you contact the protestant(s) directly to determine the nature of the protest and, if possible, to resolve the matter without action by the Department.

In our experience, informal discussion between the parties prior to initiation of formal proceedings often leads to resolution of the protest.

If the protest cannot be resolved informally, the matter will be scheduled for conference and/or hearing. The following are criteria the Department must consider in either approving or denying the application (Section 42-222, Idaho Code).

1. Will other water rights be injured by the proposed transfer?
2. Will the proposed change constitute an enlargement in the use of the original right(s)?
3. Will the proposed change conflict with the local public interest?
4. Will the proposed change be contrary to the conservation of water resources within the State of Idaho?

You will be notified at a later date of the time and place of the conference and/or hearing. Please contact this office if you have any questions regarding this procedure.

Sincerely,

Allen D. Merritt
Regional Manager

ADM:mb

CONFERENCE AND HEARING PROCEDURE

APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER ISSUES

Section 42-222, Idaho Code, identifies the following potential issues that the department can consider in connection with an application for transfer:

1. Will the proposed transfer injure other water rights?
2. Will the proposed transfer constitute an enlargement in the use of the original right?
3. Is the proposed transfer in the local public interest, where local public interest is defined as the affairs of the people in the area directly affected by the proposed use?
4. Is the proposed use contrary to conservation of water resources within the state of Idaho?

BURDEN OF PROOF

The applicant has the initial burden of proof for issues 1, 2, and 4 above and must provide evidence for the department to evaluate these criteria. The initial burden of proof on issue 3 above lies with both the applicant and protestant as to factors of which they are most knowledgeable and cognizant. The applicant has the ultimate burden of persuasion, however, for this issue.

PROCEDURE

The department generally conducts an informal conference with the parties to determine the issues and to try to settle a protested matter before a hearing is scheduled. If a hearing is held, the department will issue a written decision based on the hearing record.

CONFERENCE

The purpose of a pre-hearing conference is to provide the opportunity for the parties and the department to familiarize themselves with a contested matter and to attempt to resolve the matter. At the conference, the department may also formulate and simplify the issues, identify documents to avoid unnecessary proof, exchange proposed exhibits or prepared testimony, limit witnesses, discuss settlement or make settlement offers, schedule hearings, establish procedure at hearing and address other matters that may expedite orderly conduct and disposition of the proceeding or its settlement. The department may issue a "pre-conference statement order" which requires response to the inquiries.

HEARING

The department will tape record the hearing. Copies of a hearing tape are available upon request and the payment of the cost of reproducing the tape. The hearing likely will be conducted by a hearing officer appointed by the Director rather than by the Director himself. If so, the hearing officer will prepare a recommended order for the Director's consideration. Parties can file exceptions to a recommended order, briefs in support of the exceptions or may request oral argument. Parties may seek judicial review of any final order issued by the Director. Parties may by written stipulation waive the right to a recommended order, particularly when a shortened decision process is desirable or necessary. Such a waiver does not eliminate any rights of the parties in connection with the final order of the Director and judicial review of the order.

EXHIBITS

A party who plans to offer an exhibit as part of the hearing record must provide a copy of the proposed exhibit to the parties and to the hearing officer. As part of the conference a date may be set by which exchange of exhibits and witness lists must occur.

EFFECT OF FAILURE TO APPEAR AT A CONFERENCE OR HEARING

Failure to appear at the time and place set for a conference or hearing by the applicant or protestant(s) may allow the department to dismiss without prejudice the protest(s) or the application. Any and all cost incurred by reason of such non-appearance may be assessed against such non-appearing party.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Any hearing scheduled will be conducted in a facility which meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations in order to attend, participate in or understand the hearing, please advise the department within (10) days prior to the hearing.