

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 31, 2003

TO: Jeff Peppersack

FROM: Shelley W. Keen

RE: Permit 63-12064

Would it be possible to enlist Cynthia's help in addressing a couple of items mentioned in the beneficial use field report for Permit 63-12064, which authorizes the diversion of low-temperature geothermal water to heat four greenhouses? Cynthia is already developing some experience with geothermal heating systems by working on the heating rights for the City of Twin Falls and the Twin Falls School District. This right could be an opportunity for her to increase her knowledge of the use of geothermal water.

The field examiner for Permit 63-12064 raises two related issues that should be addressed before this right is licensed. First, the field examiner calculated a proposed annual volume by determining the volume that would result from pumping the authorized diversion rate 24 hours per day all season long. However, it is unlikely that the greenhouses would require such a large volume of water, particularly because of the second issue, which is that the right holder appears to regulate the flow of water to the greenhouses by adjusting the valves on the inflow pipeline to slow the flow of water through the greenhouses and by routing the excess flow directly to a pond on the property. Routing the excess low-temperature geothermal resource to a pond violates the requirement that it be used primarily for its heat value.

I would appreciate Cynthia's help in determining the volume that would be needed to heat the greenhouses each year and also in preparing a brief overview of measures the right holder could take to eliminate the wasting of low-temperature geothermal resource. My ultimate intention would be hold the license in abeyance until the right holder has re-designed the diversion system to eliminate the waste.