



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

February 19, 2002

WILEY DOBBS
TWIN FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 411
201 MAIN AVE WEST
TWIN FALLS ID 83301

RE: Water right permit no. 47-7964

Dear Mr. Dobbs:

The Department of Water Resources is in the process of reviewing the above referenced water right permit for licensing. We are now trying to obtain any available information to evaluate the system in place during the period of development from October 3, 1983 to July 22, 1987. Though a beneficial use field examination was conducted by the Department on October 16, 2001, detailed information about the system was not available. Quantifying historic water use is difficult given that the system involves multiple users and has been in place for quite some time.

Dale Thornsberry sent a letter to the Department, dated April 14, 1995, accompanied by a package of information about the Twin Falls High School well. I understand this may include much of the information available regarding development of the above noted water right permit, however I have identified additional information that would be helpful for further review of the developed use. Your assistance in locating supplementary documentation is appreciated to ensure that the permit is licensed appropriately.

As you know, the point of diversion, also referred to as the Twin Falls High School Well, is shared with the City of Twin Falls under water right permit no. 47-7969 for use in the community pool facilities. Permit no. 47-7964 indicated that geothermal water would be used for heating the Twin Falls High School and the Sawtooth Elementary School. I understand the high school is not currently included in this system, however the use is being considered in the review for licensing since it was described in the permit, and water was put to beneficial use in the high school during the period of development for permit no. 47-7964. Though discharge measurements have been collected from the well as a result of the Moratorium in the Twin Falls Groundwater Management Area (GWMA), it is difficult to establish how much water has been beneficially used under each permit because the measurements were not made for the individual uses and were taken after the period of development.

First, additional documentation is necessary to confirm that flow rates and volumes diverted during the period of development are consistent with the discharge measurements collected for the geothermal monitoring program during the 1990s. I understand that this data may not be available, however any information related to the actual distribution system, pipe sizes, pump curves, and clarification of how water is directed to the pool and school facilities would be helpful. Please also identify whether discharge from the schools can be directed to locations other than the pool facilities, such as the city sewer system.

Second, information about the design heating and water use requirements for the schools could be used to confirm the reasonableness of the quantities and portions of total water use from the well. If a feasibility study was conducted for school geothermal heating system, it may provide a breakdown of different usage periods, estimated heat requirements, and the geothermal peak load required in gallons per minute (gpm). A plan for the as-built system would be very helpful in lieu of actual measurements of water use.

Third, a detailed account of the periods of operation of the school facilities would clarify water use requirements and distribution under each permit. The school district's permit authorizes year round use, however it is necessary to identify more specifically when the schools were open for use throughout the year, including the hours of operation of the heating system. A breakdown of the specific water uses, such as whether water was used in the bathrooms in addition to heating and cooling the buildings, and whether a secondary heat source was used would also be helpful.

Again, I understand the difficulties of documenting water use in the school facilities. Quite a bit of information has been requested, some of which may not be available. Our objective is simply to license the referenced water rights such that they describe the actual uses developed during the authorized period of development, therefore your efforts are appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me at (208) 327-7898 or cclark@idwr.state.id.us.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Bridge Clark
Associate Engineer
Water Right Permits Section