



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Southern Region, 1341 Fillmore Street, Suite 200 • Twin Falls, Idaho 83301-3380

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March 22, 2011

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN
Interim Director

ALBERT P BARKER
PO BOX 2139
BOISE ID 83701-2139

RE: Amended Application for Permit No 37-20743 (Smith)

Dear Mr. Barker:

This office acknowledges receipt of the protest to the issuance of Permit No. 37-20743 on behalf of the Wood River Valley Irrigation District #45. As part of the application process, the following options are available for the resolution of contested (protested) applications:

- Direct contact with the applicant(s) to determine the nature of the protest(s) and to attempt to resolve the protest. Sincere conversation between the parties prior to initiation of formal proceedings can often resolve protest(s).

- Formal proceedings administered by the Department pursuant to the Department's Rule of Procedure (IDAPA 37.01.01). A pre-hearing conference identifies the protestant's concerns and reviews the resolution possibilities with the parties. If the concerns cannot be resolved, a formal hearing will be scheduled.

- Mediation through a certified professional mediator can reduce costs and time that are associated with formal proceedings, present the opportunity to address non-water concerns, provide influence over a final settlement, and fast track the processing of the application if a mediated agreement is reached. If you are interested in this option, please contact our office for details.

Please consider with the applicant the best option(s) for resolution of the contested application. If reasonable efforts to settle the issue of the protest are not successful within a few weeks, you may be notified that a pre-hearing conference will be scheduled.

You may contact this office if you have any questions regarding the procedure discussed in this letter or additional information about water rights and other matters administered by this agency is available on the Internet at www.idwr.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

Allen Merritt
Regional Manager

Enclosure: Pre-Hearing Conference Procedures

PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE AND/OR HEARING PROCEDURE APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

ISSUES

Applications to appropriate the water of the State of Idaho are referred to as applications for permit, and are for the development of new water rights. Section 42-203A, Idaho Code, requires the department to consider the following issues in connection with an application for permit:

1. Will the proposed appropriation reduce the quantity of water under existing water rights?
2. Is the water supply sufficient for the purpose for which it is sought to be appropriated?
3. Was the application made in good faith or for delay or speculative purposes?
4. Does the applicant have sufficient financial resources with which to complete the proposed project?
5. Will the proposed use conflict with the local public interest, where local public interest is defined as interests that the people in the area directly affected by a proposed water use have in the effects of such use on the public water resource?
6. Will the proposed use be contrary to the conservation of water resources within the State of Idaho?
7. Will the proposed use adversely affect the local economy of the watershed or local area within which the source of water for the proposed use originates, in the case where the place of use is outside of the watershed or local area where the source of water originates?

BURDEN OF PROOF

The applicant has the initial burden of proof for issues 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 above and must provide evidence for the department to evaluate these criteria.

The initial burden of proof on issue 5, if applicable, 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 to avoid unnecessary proof, identify documents, schedule discovery, 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. When attending the conference, please bring a calendar with your schedule for the next two–six month period from the date of the pre-hearing conference for the purpose of scheduling a hearing. Parties will be expected to discuss their availability at the prehearing conference for the purpose of scheduling the hearing.

HEARING

A hearing may be conducted according to Sections 42-1701A(1) and (2), Idaho Code and the department's Rules of Procedure. Copies of Idaho Code and the department's rules are available upon request or by accessing the department's website at: www.idwr.idaho.gov. The department records formal hearings, and copies of a hearing recording are available upon request. There may be a charge for reproducing the recording.

The hearing will likely 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 or preliminary order. Parties can petition for reconsideration of a decision or file exceptions. A brief to support exceptions may request oral argument. Parties may seek judicial review of any final order issued by the Director.

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.

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 notify the department no later than ten (10) days prior to the hearing. If a hearing is held, the department will issue a written decision based on the hearing record.