

Hydro Logic, Inc.

OWA

1002 W. Franklin Street, Boise, ID 83702 (208) 342-8369, (Fax) 342-3100, hydrologic@qwest.net

June 14, 2010

Mr. Jeff Peppersack, Administrator
Idaho Department of Water Resources
322 East Front Street
Boise, Idaho
83720-0098

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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Subject: City of Meridian Licensing Examinations for Anticipated Transfer Application

Dear Jeff:

Now that the SRBA recommendations for municipalities in the Treasure Valley are all but decreed, my client, the City of Meridian (City or Meridian), seeks to develop and file a comprehensive transfer application seeking to make all of its post 1987 water rights comport with its pre-1987 rights addressed in the SRBA. The proposed transfer application will seek approval of elements such as multiple-mutual points of diversion, a unified place of use, and a clarification of some conditions.

In addition to the City's existing water right licenses and decrees, it has three outstanding permits for which the City has submitted proof of Beneficial Use and obtained licensing examinations. The licensing recommendations from these exams have been submitted to the Department. Meridian would like to have these perfected permits included in its transfer application to reduce time, effort, and costs at the City (and at the Department). I understand that the IDWR is currently focusing on processing transfer applications and the City would greatly appreciate it if you would consider and process its transfer application while that focus is underway. To that end, I have listed (below) the three City's permits for which proof and licensing examinations have been submitted. If these licensing examinations can be processed soon, the resulting licenses can be folded into the transfer I am currently developing for the City.

As part of this request, I have reviewed these three water right permits and the associated field licensing examinations. Over the years, some water right conditions and IDWR's handling of some of the imposed conditions have changed (for the better) and conditions that were imposed many years ago under different circumstances may no longer apply. Therefore, you will notice below, in my discussion of the three permits awaiting licensing, that I have made additional recommendations that were not part of my original recommendations. Please review and take these suggestions into consideration during processing and to call with any questions you or your staff may have.

On behalf of the City and myself, I want to express our appreciation for the Department's willingness to take up these requests at a time of staffing and budget cuts so that we are able to get these older water rights into the upcoming transfer application.

1) PERMIT NO. 63-12181:

- a. Proof submitted on 6-30-1999.
- b. Licensing examination by Dan Tomich (IDWR) completed and submitted on 2-8-2000 recommended 4.5 cfs.
- c. Licensing examination by Ed Squires completed and submitted on 11-7-2002 recommended 4.5 cfs and revision of several of the conditions of approval that no longer apply.
- d. These two field exams were conducted unaware of each other but both had the same recommendation.

2) PERMIT NO. 63-12378:

- a. Proof submitted in August of 2002.
- b. Licensing examination by Ed Squires completed and submitted on 6-10-2004 recommended 4.5 cfs and revision of several of the conditions of approval that no longer apply.
- c. Also, I have one additional recommendation with respect to Condition No. 12 which states: "Water-bearing zone to be appropriated is 600 to 800 feet."
 - i. The City drilled a deep (1,043 ft bgl) exploratory test well at the Well #19 site to characterize its complete available water supply.
 - ii. The existing water supply well was completed between the depths of 556-to-732 ft bgl and the test well was completed between the depths of 340-to-420 ft bgl.
 - iii. In my original licensing examination I recommended that the water-bearing zone be changed to reflect the actual completion interval of the first well on the site. However, in keeping with current thinking and permitting of more recent wells, the City explored the entire saturated geologic section with an eye toward its future water supply. The City has a history of completing more than one well on a given well site and of deepening its wells to lower levels of the aquifer based on water quality issues. The water-bearing zone issue has been treated broadly by the IDWR in recent permit and license approvals. Therefore, I recommend that the Condition #12 be changed to state: "Water-bearing zone to be appropriated is 200 to 1,000 feet."

3) PERMIT NO. 63-12560:

- a. Proof submitted on 2-25-2005.
- b. Licensing examination by Ed Squires completed and submitted on 2-25-2010 recommended 4.5 cfs and revision of several of the conditions of approval that no longer apply.
- c. Also, I have one additional recommendation with respect to Condition No. 9 which states: "Water-bearing zone to be appropriated is 650 to 800 feet."
 - i. The City drilled a deep (905 ft bgl) exploratory test well at the Well #21 site to characterize its complete available water supply.

- ii. The existing water supply well was completed between the depths of 590-to-830 ft bgl and the test well was completed between the depths of 805-to-905 ft bgl.
- iii. In keeping with current thinking and permitting of more recent wells, the City explored the entire saturated geologic section with an eye toward its future water supply. The City has a history of completing more than one well on a given well site and of deepening its wells to lower levels of the aquifer based on water quality issues. Therefore, I recommend that the Condition #9 be changed to state: "Water-bearing zone to be appropriated is 200 to 905 feet."

Thank you for considering this request. Please know that I will be responsive to any requests for additional information by Department staff with the ultimate goal of filing a transfer application for the City water rights portfolio.

Respectfully,

Ed Squires



c: Shelley Keen, Water Allocation Bureau, IDWR
Kyle Radek, Assistant City Engineer, Meridian