



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

DAVID R. TUTHILL, JR.
Director

December 17, 2008

Brockway Engineering PLLC
ATTN: Zach Latham
2016 North Washington St Suite 4
Twin Falls, ID 83301

RE: App For Transfer 75102, Christie A Haugh

Dear Zach;

I have started reviewing this application, and have found some issues that need to be addressed. I expect more issues to surface as processing continues, but this seems like a good place to start. With regard to the groundwater right being moved from Bellevue, the recommend place of use for this right is the Maple Ridge and Pine View Subdivisions. Of the 49 lots involved, the 11 lots currently owned by Robert Head (the claimant of record) cover 3.15 acres instead of the 8.1 acres that are proposed to be transferred. Since he sold the water right to the current sellers in October of 2004, it is possible that he owned additional lots at that time. If so, you need to identify which additional 4.95 acres he owned; then obtain written permission from the current owners of this land for Ms. Haugh to transfer the water from their property. Or you could provide documents verifying that Head sold the additional land WITHOUT WATER RIGHTS. Without sufficient proof of ownership, the transfer cannot be approved as filed.

What is the current status of the irrigation well drilled by Head in 1995? Is it used now? Has it ever been used? The right is of course protected from forfeiture under SRBA rules, but this information will be helpful in my overall analysis of this transfer.

How will the surface water currently appurtenant to the Haugh property be used in conjunction with the ground water? In order for one transfer to cover both sources, they have to be delivered through a single irrigation system. Exactly how will water be diverted from Townsend Gulch?

Staff have raised a concern about moving the groundwater right from one side of the Wood River Valley to the other, in that such a move might negatively impact other surface and ground-water diversion in and around Townsend Gulch. How would you respond to this?

FYI, I have excluded the SE/SE Sec. 2 as a tract in the proposed ppu due to the tiny amount of land here. The only other alternative is to increase it to 0.1 acres, which would be excessive. I have seen this area, and do not believe that there will be any actual irrigation in this tract anyway. Let me know if you have a problem with this approach (I am following Pam's advice here). The overall ppu description has been rounded up to 22.0 acres per our standard methods. I will be describing this land as Lot 3D, as that is what the county taxlot data calls it.

I also have the Christenson transfer (75103), but have not yet started to review it. I will probably be working on it while I wait for your response on the Haugh transfer.

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Regards,

James E. Stanton
Sr. Water Resource Agent