

BROCKWAY
ENGINEERING
P.L.L.C.

Hydraulics

Hydrology

Water Resources

RECEIVED

JAN 04 2008

DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES
SOUTHERN REGION

January 3, 2008

Mr. Allen Merritt
Idaho Department of Water Resources
1341 Fillmore Street, Suite 200
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Re: Application for Transfer / 37-276F
Project No. 1016-01-2007

Dear Allen:

Enclosed is a transfer application for the above-referenced water right. This is a Big Wood River decreed right appurtenant to 7 acres of irrigated land in the Chocolate Gulch area. The right has been recommended for 0.14 cfs and 7.0 acres. Essentially this same area has been irrigated from an existing well under groundwater rights 37-7786 (recommended for 6.0 acres) and 37-8574 (licensed for 6.0 acres, not in the SRBA) since approximately 1984.

The enclosed aerial photo map shows the area under irrigation and the proximity of the Big Wood River and the existing well. It is desired to consolidate the surface water and groundwater rights, and allow diversion of all rights from the existing well.

I realize that the Department has in recent years significantly restricted the conversion of surface water rights to groundwater. The Department typically requires considerable hydrologic analysis to ensure that no adverse impact to the surface water supply and no injury to surface water or groundwater users will occur. My understanding is that the Department can approve such a transfer provided the groundwater-surface water interconnection is so intimate that the well diversion is nearly equivalent to a headgate in the river. The most recent on I am aware of on the Big Wood River is the Burdick transfer, approved 3 or 4 years ago, resulting in water right 37-20616.

The proposed transfer of 37-276F is a unique case, in that no surface water diversions exist within a long distance down-gradient of the well; the nearest downstream diversion is the Huf-N-Puf pump (0.07 cfs of 3/24/1883 water) just north of Ketchum, approximately 4 miles downstream. The aquifer and the river in this reach are essentially the same resource. The depth to water in the Dawson well was measured at 12.66 feet below ground on November 26, 2007. At the time of drilling, the static water level was 9 feet (see enclosed

CHARLES E.
BROCKWAY,
PH.D., P.E.

CHARLES G.
BROCKWAY,
PH.D., P.E.

2016 NORTH
WASHINGTON
STREET • SUITE 4

TWIN FALLS,
IDAHO 83301

208•736•8543

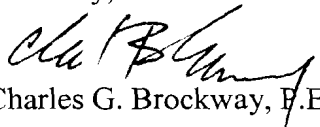
FAX: 736•8506

drilling record showing completion of the well in September 1984). Within the Eagle Creek Meadows Subdivision, 0.25 miles downstream, the groundwater level is very shallow, and during parts of the year is at or near the ground surface, particularly on those lots nearest the river (I have performed studies and designs for on-site wastewater disposal systems in this subdivision, and have first-hand knowledge of this fact). 18 drilling records for wells within this subdivision indicate static water levels ranging from 2 to 18, with an average of 8.1 feet. 13 of the 18 logs indicate static levels 10 feet or less. One well log located within Strawberry Fields Subdivision, just across the highway from the Dawson property, indicated a static water level of 8 feet.

In my opinion, a cursory evaluation of the aquifer-river system at this location indicates that depletion at the Dawson well under 37-276F will be realized in the river within a short time and a short distance downstream, certainly upstream of the next downstream diversion. There appears to be no problem of "double-dipping", i.e. improving the surface water supply and reliability of another user's surface water right. Because of these facts, I do not believe extensive hydrologic modeling is necessary for the Department to approve this transfer.

Please review this information and let me know if you require additional information. I would be happy to meet with you and other involved staff to determine what will be necessary for processing of this transfer.

Cordially,



Charles G. Brockway, F.E.

Enc. Transfer application and supporting documents
Cc: Hanley and Catherine Dawson