



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1118 F Street • Lewiston, Idaho 83501 • (208) 799-4370

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Toni Hardesty, Director

August 17, 2007

Mr. Randy Eller, Resource Manager
Empire Lumber Company
P.O. Box 206
Weippe, ID 83553

RECEIVED
SEP 20 2007
IDWR/North

Dear Mr. Eller:

We received your letter requesting our comments on the approval of your application to construct a well and draw 4.5 cfs (2,014 gpm) of ground water to provide Empire Lumber Company water for fire protection and to sprinkle logs from January 1 to December 31. Assuming all federal, state and local permits have been obtained, storm water regulations met, and reviews completed, we offer the following comments.

It is the policy of the State of Idaho, Ground Water Management Plan that existing and projected beneficial uses of ground water and interconnected surface water be maintained and protected and degradation that would impair beneficial uses of ground water and interconnected surface water not be allowed.

According to your application, your proposed well will extract approximately 2,000 gpm from the same aquifer that the City of Weippe uses for its drinking water system. The City normally operates on one of its two wells, which are rated at 150 gpm and 275 gpm respectively.

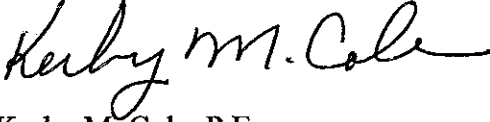
Every effort should be taken to reduce and better understand the potential negative impact the extraction of 2,000 gpm could have on the City of Weippe's drinking water system. Also, any discharge point from either the log yard or the mill site will most likely require an NPDES discharge permit.

To address these concerns, it may make sense to have your system engineered to recycle the log deck water and to maximize the use of on-site storage tanks. Maybe the storage capacity of the City could be used to help supplement fire flow capacity in the case of an emergency.

Any new well construction must comply with all aspects of the Well Construction Standards Rules, IDAPA 37, Title 03, Chapter 09. All work will be completed following the guidelines, best management practices, rules and regulations found in "Idaho Well-Driller's Regulatory Compliance Guidebook", Marc McGregor, UI, distributed by the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your application. If you have any questions regarding the Idaho Water Quality Standards or the conditions listed above, please call us at (208) 799-4370.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerby M. Cole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kerby M. Cole, P.E.
Regional Administrator

CC: Eric Davis, IDWR
Ray Hennekey, IF&G
Marti Bridges, IDEQ