

MEMORANDUM

TO: Shelley Keen, Water Permits Section Manager 10/5/2007
FROM: Cindy Yenter, WD130 Watermaster 
CC: Allen Merritt
RE: Recommended modification of measuring device conditions on Permit
Nos. 36-16440 and 36-16441, Jerome Joint School District 261

Mr. Steve Ames from the School District phoned the regional office this week with concerns about the device condition no.115 which appears on both the above permits. The permits were obtained for diversion of water to supply closed-loop heating and cooling systems for two new schools. I agreed to visit the sites and make watermaster recommendations for measuring devices, and recommendations for acceptable modifications to the permit conditions.

The school facilities referenced on the permits are still under construction. All 6 wells (4 production and 2 injection) have been drilled. The elementary school (36-16441) has most of the mechanical systems in place, including the HVAC system. The middle school (36-16440) is still one or two months away from HVAC installation. The completed system at the elementary school uses 4" ductile iron supply line from the production wells to the heat exchanger, and then back to the injection well. The two production well lines join prior to entering the building. A 6-8 foot run of straight pipe is accessible inside the building, upstream from the heat exchanger, and would accommodate a flow meter and provide adequate testing space. The middle school system will be nearly identical except that 6" supply line will be used because a higher flow is required there.

The real issue at hand appears to be that certain areas in the elementary school building need to be heated in order to accomplish finish work. What Mr. Ames really desires is permission to operate the elementary school heat exchange wells in advance of the meter installation. The school district is not really resisting the requirement to install measuring devices. They did, however, fail to include flow meters in the job specifications and will now need to go through the full requisition process before even ordering the meters. This could take a few weeks, and in the meantime work would be delayed.

The decision to allow the school district to operate the system temporarily without a measuring device should be made at the discretion of the watermaster. I have considered this and will probably grant that permission once I am satisfied that the device requisition process is underway.

I further recommend that the flow meter condition on both referenced permits be changed from 115 to 01J. I have already indicated to Mr. Ames that a flow meter will be required, and that a magnetic flow meter would likely be the only meter acceptable to the Department. I do not feel the data logger requirement is necessary.