



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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SOUTHERN REGION

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

DAVID R. TUTHILL, JR.
Interim Director

February 7, 2007

John Mason
College of Southern Idaho
PO Box 1238
Twin Falls, ID 83303-1238

RE: Hot water use North of College Rd

Dear Mr. Mason:

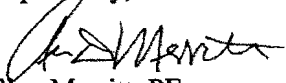
I have received your January 30th letter and will attempt to answer your questions regarding the proposed use of hot water north of College Road.

As you may know the area around Twin Falls is included in the Twin Falls Ground Water Management Area designated in January of 1984. The establishment of the management area for the hot water aquifer was created since the hot water resource was found to be limited and in decline. The management area prevents development of new permits for diversion of hot water from the aquifer. As your letter indicates CSI has two permits (47-7606 and 47-7478) that allowed for development of hot water for Heating and Fish Propagation. A review of the records finds that both of these permits have had statements of "Proof of Beneficial Use" filed which essentially stops further development under the permits. Both of these permits await licensing by IDWR.

If it is the desire of CSI to heat additional building space it appears that this may be approached in two ways. Both approaches require that no more water (both rate of diversion and annual volume) is used than is presently authorized under existing rights. Granted these limits are not yet set until the licensing of 47-7606 and 47-7478 is complete. The licensing of these permits will focus on the uses established as of the date when "Proof of Beneficial Use" was filed. Approaches you may consider include filing for modification of the existing rights under an amendment of the permit or transfer after licensing of the permits. Another approach would be to attempt to obtain a new permit which is based on use of the wastewater from the current system. Both approaches will require quantification of the historical impact these permits have had on the aquifer. Either approach requires filing appropriate applications with IDWR. As for timing for processing these applications it is difficult for me to project since we currently have a backlog of such applications. If we had no backlog a conservative estimate would be 6 months assuming there were no protests. Realistically you are probably looking at 1 year. If any application filed based on these approaches is protested the timeline would be significantly greater.

It appears that CSI and IDWR needs to focus in the short term on completing the field exams for licensing of permits 47-7606 and 47-7478 so that the appropriate limits are quantified. We look forward in working with you in this effort.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen Merritt", written over a horizontal line.

Allen Merritt, PE
Southern Region Manager

CC: Jeff Peppersack, Shelley Keen – IDWR State Office