



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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SOUTHERN REGION

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

May 24, 2006

ATTN BILL HALL PRESIDENT
NORTH RIM FAIRWAYS ASSN.
PO BOX 242
JEROME ID 83338

Application for Permit No. 36-16406

Dear Mr. Hall:

Enclosed are copies of protests filed against approval of the above referenced application. The Department suggests that you contact the protestant(s) directly to determine the nature of the protest and, if possible, to resolve the matter without action by the Department.

In our experience, informal discussion between the parties prior to initiation of formal proceedings often leads to resolution of the protest. If the protest cannot be resolved informally, the matter will be scheduled for conference and/or hearing.

Please note that your application is considered a contested case and subject to the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Department.

If you need a copy of these rules, please contact this office. The Rules of Procedure are also available on the Internet by using the IDWR Homepage at the following electronic address:

<http://www.idwr.state.id.us/apa/idapa37/0101.htm>

The attachment to this letter describes criteria the Department must consider in either approving or denying the application (Section 42-203A, Idaho Code). It also gives a brief description of the conference and hearing procedure followed by the Department in resolving protested applications.

If the protest cannot be resolved informally, the matter will be scheduled for conference and/or hearing. Please contact this office if you have any questions regarding this procedure or if you wish to schedule a conference and/or hearing.

Sincerely,

Allen D. Merritt, P.E.
Regional Manager

Enclosures

CONFERENCE AND HEARING PROCEDURE

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT ISSUES

Section 42-203A, Idaho Code, requires the department to consider the following issues in connection with an application for permit:

1. Will the proposed appropriation injure other water rights?
2. Is the water supply sufficient for the purpose for which it is sought to be appropriated?
3. Was the application made in good faith or for delay or speculative purposes?
4. Does the applicant have sufficient financial resources with which to complete the proposed project?
5. Is the proposed appropriation in the local public interest, which is defined as the affairs of the people in the area directly affected by the proposed use?
6. Is the proposed use contrary to conservation of water resources within the state of Idaho?

BURDEN OF PROOF

The applicant has the initial burden of proof for issues 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 above and must provide evidence for the department to evaluate these criteria. The initial burden of proof on issue 5 above lies with both the applicant and protestant as to factors of which they are most knowledgeable and cognizant. The applicant has the ultimate burden of persuasion, however, for this issue.

PROCEDURE

The department generally conducts an informal conference with the parties to determine the issues and to try to settle a protested matter before a hearing is scheduled. If a hearing is held the department will issue a written decision based on the hearing record.

CONFERENCE

The purpose of a pre-hearing conference is to provide the opportunity for the parties and the department to familiarize themselves with a contested matter and to attempt to resolve the matter. At the conference, the department may also formulate and simplify the issues, identify documents to avoid unnecessary proof, exchange proposed exhibits or prepared testimony, limit witnesses, discuss settlement or make settlement offers, schedule hearings, establish procedure at hearing and address other matters that may expedite orderly conduct and disposition of the proceeding or its settlement. The department may issue a "pre-conference statement order" which requires response to the inquiries.

HEARING

The department will tape record the hearing. Copies of a hearing tape are available upon request and the payment of the cost of reproducing the tape. The hearing likely will be conducted by a hearing officer appointed by the Director rather than by the Director himself. If so, the hearing officer will prepare a recommended order for the Director's consideration. Parties can file exceptions to a recommended order, briefs in support of the exceptions or may request oral argument. Parties may seek judicial review of any final order issued by the Director. Parties may by written stipulation waive the right to a recommended order, particularly when a shortened decision process is desirable or necessary. Such a waiver does not eliminate any rights of the parties in connection with the final order of the Director and judicial review of the order.

EXHIBITS

A party who plans to offer an exhibit as part of the hearing record must provide a copy of the proposed exhibit to the parties and to the hearing officer. As part of the conference a date may be set by which exchange of exhibits and witness lists must occur.

EFFECT OF FAILURE TO APPEAR AT A CONFERENCE OR HEARING

Failure to appear at the time and place set for a conference or hearing by the applicant or protestant(s) may allow the department to dismiss without prejudice the protest(s) or the application. Any and all cost incurred by reason of such non-appearance may be assessed against such non-appearing party.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Any hearing scheduled will be conducted in a facility which meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations in order to attend, participate in or understand the hearing, please advise the department within (10) days prior to the hearing.