



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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SOUTHERN REGION

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

May 4, 2006

MARVIN B STROPE
INGRID STROPE
PO BOX 34
CLAYTON ID 83227

RE: Applications to Appropriate Water 72-16645 and 72-16696

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Strobe:

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) is reviewing your applications to appropriate water from ground water in the Salmon River basin for irrigation and domestic purposes. Idaho Code § 42-203A(5) requires IDWR to evaluate the following criteria for applications to appropriate water:

- The potential to reduce the quantity of water under existing water rights
- The sufficiency of the water supply for the proposed appropriation
- The good faith nature of the application
- The adequacy of the financial resources of the applicant
- The local public interest in the public water resource
- The conservation of water resources in Idaho
- Impacts to the economy of the local area or watershed

To ensure that IDWR has sufficient information to evaluate the statutorily mandated criteria, Rule 40.05 of the Water Appropriation Rules (IDAPA 37.03.08.040.05) requires water right applicants to submit additional information to IDWR in connection with their applications. I have enclosed a copy of Rule 40.05 for your reference.

In accordance with Rule 40.05.c, the additional information requirement is usually waived for applications proposing the appropriation of 5.0 cfs or less or the storage of 500 af or less. Because the waters of the Salmon River drainage are habitat for fish species listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, however, IDWR believes that caution is necessary to ensure that new appropriations of water do not undermine efforts to protect and restore the ESA listed fish species and other public values in the rivers and streams of the Salmon River basin. As part of this cautious approach, IDWR is requiring that applicants submit the additional information required by Water Appropriation Rules 40.05.d through 40.05.g even when the applications are for less than the usual 5.0 cfs/500 af threshold.

Please submit the information required by Water Appropriation Rules 40.05.d through 40.05.g to IDWR for each of your applications within 30 days. For your convenience, I have highlighted the portions of the rules that apply to your applications. If you need additional time to submit the required information, please submit a written request. IDWR can grant additional time "upon a showing of good cause." Water Appropriation Rule 40.01.d also allows an applicant to request that IDWR interrupt processing an application for up to six months. IDWR can approve the request if it will not injure others, it is consistent with the public interest, and it is not for speculative purposes.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Corey Skinner in this office or contact Shelley Keen at 208-287-4947 in our State Office. You may also email them at:

shelley.keen@idwr.idaho.gov

corey.skinner@idwr.idaho.gov

Sincerely,



Allen Merritt, PE
Southern Region Manager

Enclosure

Cc: Marti Bridges at IDEQ in Boise
Cindy Robertson at IDFG in Boise
Jim Lukens at IDFG in Salmon
Jim Johnston at IDEQ in Idaho Falls
Bill Graham at IDWR in Boise

criterion (e) of Section 42-203A(5), Idaho Code, as to any factor affecting local public interest of which he is knowledgeable or reasonably can be expected to be knowledgeable. The protestant shall bear the initial burden of coming forward with evidence for those factors relevant to criterion (e) of Section 42-203A(5), Idaho Code, of which the protestant can reasonably be expected to be more cognizant than the applicant. (7-1-93)

iii. The protestant shall bear the initial burden of coming forward with evidence for the evaluation of the public interest criteria of Section 42-203C(2), Idaho Code, and of demonstrating a significant reduction, except that the applicant shall provide details of the proposed design, construction, and operation of the project and directly associated operations to allow the impact of the project to be evaluated. (7-1-93)

c. The applicant has the ultimate burden of persuasion for the criteria of Section 42-203A, Idaho Code, and the protestant has the ultimate burden of persuasion for the criteria of Section 42-203C, Idaho Code. (7-1-93)

d. For unprotested applications or permits to be reprocessed, the director will evaluate the application, information submitted pursuant to Rule Subsection 040.05.c. and information in the files and records of the department, and the results of any studies the department may conduct to determine compliance with the appropriate criteria. (7-1-93)

e. In protested matters the director will take official notice of information as described in the department's adopted Rules of Procedure, and will, prior to considering, circulate to the parties information from department studies and field examinations concerning the protested application or permit being reprocessed, if such information has not otherwise been made a part of the hearing record. (7-1-93)

05. Additional Information Requirements. (7-1-93)

a. For unprotested applications and permits being reprocessed, the additional information required by Rule Subsection 040.05.c. shall be submitted within thirty (30) days after the director notifies the applicant that the application or permit is being reviewed for decision. The director may extend the time within which to submit the information upon request by the applicant and upon a showing of good cause. Failure to submit the required information within the time period allowed will be cause for the director to void an application or to advance the priority of a permit being reprocessed by the number of days that the information submittal is late. The director will provide opportunity for hearing as provided in Section 42-1701A, Idaho Code. (7-1-93)

b. For protested applications or protested permits being reprocessed, the information required by Rule Subsection 040.05.c. may be requested by the director to be submitted within thirty (30) days after notification by the director, may be made a part of the record of the hearing held to consider the protest, or may be made available in accordance with any pre-hearing discovery procedures. Failure to submit the required information within the time period allowed will be cause for the director to void an application or to advance the priority of a permit being reprocessed by the number of days that the information submittal is late. (7-1-93)

c. The following information shall be submitted for applications to appropriate unappropriated water or trust water and for permits being reprocessed for trust water. The additional information submittal requirements of this rule are waived for filings which seek to appropriate five (5) cfs or less or storage of five hundred acre-feet (500 AF) or less and for filings seeking reallocation of trust water which the director determines will reduce the flow of the Snake River measured at Murphy Gauge by not more than two (2) acre-feet per day. For filings proposing irrigation as a purpose of use, the additional information is required if more than two hundred (200) acres will be irrigated. However, the director may specifically request submittal of any of the following information for any filing, as he determines necessary. Information relative to the effect on existing water rights, Section 42-203A(5)(a), Idaho Code, shall be submitted as follows: (7-1-93)

i. For applications appropriating springs or surface streams with five (5) or fewer existing users, either the identification number, or the name and address of the user, and the location of the point of diversion and nature of use for each existing water right shall be submitted. (7-1-93)

ii. For applications appropriating groundwater, a plat shall be submitted locating the proposed well relative to all existing wells and springs and permitted wells within a one-half mile radius of the proposed well.

(7-1-93)

iii. Information shall be submitted concerning any design, construction, or operation techniques which will be employed to eliminate or reduce the impact on other water rights. (7-1-93)

d. Information relative to sufficiency of water supply, Section 42-203A(5)(b), Idaho Code, shall be submitted as follows: (7-1-93)

i. Information shall be submitted on the water requirements of the proposed project, including, but not limited to, the required diversion rate during the peak use period and the average use period, the volume to be diverted per year, the period of year that water is required, and the volume of water that will be consumptively used per year. (7-1-93)

ii. Information shall be submitted on the quantity of water available from the source applied for, including, but not limited to, information concerning flow rates for surface water sources available during periods of peak and average project water demand, information concerning the properties of the aquifers that water is to be taken from for groundwater sources, and information on other sources of supply that may be used to supplement the applied for water source. (7-1-93)

e. Information relative to good faith, delay, or speculative purposes of the applicant, Section 42-203A(5)(c), Idaho Code, shall be submitted as follows: (7-1-93)

i. The applicant shall submit copies of deeds, leases, easements or applications for rights-of-way from federal or state agencies documenting a possessory interest in the lands necessary for all project facilities and the place of use or if such interest can be obtained by eminent domain proceedings the applicant must show that appropriate actions are being taken to obtain the interest. Applicants for hydropower uses shall also submit information required to demonstrate compliance with Sections 42-205 and 42-206, Idaho Code. (7-1-93)

ii. The applicant shall submit copies of applications for other needed permits, licenses and approvals, and must keep the department apprised of the status of the applications and any subsequent approvals or denials. (7-1-93)

f. Information Relative to Financial Resources, Section 42-203A(5)(d), Idaho Code, shall be submitted as follows: (7-1-93)

i. The applicant shall submit a current financial statement certified to show the accuracy of the information contained therein, or a financial commitment letter along with the financial statement of the lender or other evidence to show that it is reasonably probable that financing will be available to appropriate the water and apply it to the beneficial use proposed. (7-1-93)

ii. The applicant shall submit plans and specifications along with estimated construction costs for the project works. The plans shall be definite enough to allow for determination of project impacts and implications. (7-1-93)

g. Information Relative to Conflict with the Local Public Interest, Section 42-203A(5)(e), Idaho Code, shall be submitted as follows: The applicant shall seek comment and shall submit all letters of comment on the effects of the construction and operation of the proposed project from the governing body of the city and/or county and tribal reservation within which the point of diversion and place of use are located, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and any irrigation district or canal company within which the proposed project is located and from other entities as determined by the director. (7-1-93)

h. The following information Relative to the Public Interest Criteria of Section 42-203C(2), Idaho Code, shall be submitted by an applicant seeking reallocation of trust water for a project which the director determines will reduce the flow of the Snake River by more than two (2) acre-feet per day. For filings proposing irrigation as a purpose of use, the additional information is required if more than two hundred (200) acres will be irrigated. The director may request any or all of the following information for any filing seeking the reallocation of trust water. (7-1-93)

- i. A project design and estimate of cost of development shall be submitted. For applications appropriating more than twenty-five (25) cfs, or ten thousand (10,000) AF of storage, or generating more than five (5) megawatts, the information shall be prepared and submitted by a qualified engineer licensed under the provisions of Chapter 12, Title 54, Idaho Code, unless waived by the director. The design shall be definite enough to reflect the project's impacts and implications as required in subsequent rules. (7-1-93)
- ii. If the project proposes development for irrigation purposes, information shall be submitted on crop rotation, including acreages, for lands when newly developed. (7-1-93)
- iii. Information shall be submitted concerning the number and kinds of jobs that will be created or eliminated as a direct result of project development including both the construction and operating phases of the project. If jobs are seasonal, the estimated number of months per year of employment shall be submitted. (7-1-93)
- iv. For applications or permits being reprocessed for more than twenty-five (25) cfs, or more than ten thousand (10,000) AF of storage, or more than five (5) megawatts, information shall be submitted concerning the changes to community services that will be required during the construction and operation phases of the project including, but not limited to, changes to schools, roads, housing, public utilities and public health and safety facilities, if any. (7-1-93)
- v. Information shall be submitted concerning the source of energy for diverting and using water for the project, the estimated instantaneous demand and total amount of energy that will be used, the efficiency of use, and energy conservation methods. (7-1-93)
- vi. Information shall be submitted concerning the location, amount, and quality of return flow water, and any water conservation features of the proposed project. (7-1-93)
- vii. If the project proposes irrigation as a use, information shall be submitted concerning the kinship, if any, of the operator of the land to be irrigated by the project to the applicant, the location and acreage of other irrigated lands owned, leased, or rented by the applicant, the names, addresses and number of shares held by each shareholder if the applicant is a corporation, evidence of tax-exempt status if a corporation is so claiming, a soil survey prepared in accordance with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service irrigatable land classification system, and a schedule for bringing into production the project lands. (7-1-93)

041. – 044. (RESERVED).

045. EVALUATION CRITERIA (RULE 45).

01. Criteria for Evaluating All Applications to Appropriate Water. The director will use the following criteria in evaluating whether an application to appropriate unappropriated water or trust water should be approved, denied, approved for a smaller amount of water or approved with conditions. (7-1-93)

a. Criteria for determining whether the proposed use will reduce the quantity of water under existing water rights. A proposed use will be determined to reduce the quantity of water under an existing water right (i.e., injure another water right) if: (7-1-93)

i. The amount of water available under an existing water right will be reduced below the amount recorded by permit, license, decree or valid claim or the historical amount beneficially used by the water right holder under such recorded rights, whichever is less. (7-1-93)

ii. The holder of an existing water right will be forced to an unreasonable effort or expense to divert his existing water right. Protection of existing groundwater rights are subject to reasonable pumping level provisions of Section 42-226, Idaho Code; or (7-1-93)

iii. The quality of the water available to the holder of an existing water right is made unusable for the purposes of the existing user's right, and the water cannot be restored to usable quality without unreasonable effort or expense. (7-1-93)