

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 05, 2004
To: Transfer 71264
From: amerritt
Re: evaluation memo

This application proposes to modify right 72-7193 currently authorized to divert 20.89 cfs and 1600 afa from the Salmon River for industrial uses at the mine. The proposed modifications are to add diversion points on tributary streams to the Salmon River that are near the mine and are influenced by runoff and seepage from the mine site. The proposed diversions from these streams will allow recycling of site runoff water to enhance water quality and lessen impacts to the Salmon River.

It is proposed to at times divert up to 8.0 cfs from Buckskin detention dam, at times divert 11.0 cfs from Pat Hughes detention dam and 0.2 cfs from a spring tributary to Buckskin Creek in lieu of diversion from the Salmon River. Additionally this application identifies the place where water is stored in detention and tailings dams that is utilized in the mine process and is already part of the existing right.

Authority to File:

The applicant is the present owner listed on the database.

Water Right Validity:

Validity of the right involved: The right involved has been partially decreed in the SRBA.

Injury to Other Water Rights:

None apparent.

Enlargement of Use:

Does not appear to be enlargement of use if conditioned appropriately to limit instantaneous diversion rate and overall volume. Adding PDs does not increase availability of water.

Local Public Interest:

It would be in the local public interest to utilize runoff water from mine that may be mineral laden in lieu of diversion of fresh water from Salmon River. Impacts of fishery need to be considered at proposed PDs.

Beneficial Use/Conservation of Water Resources:

Added PDs may require less energy to pump water to mine as compared to pumping from Salmon River.

Review of the application finds there is no clear inconsistency with criteria set forth in Section 42-222 Idaho Code preventing processing of this application.

Other issue:

Pending applications 72-7552 and 72-7553 seek rights to divert water from Buckskin and Pat Hughes Creeks. This was discussed with Scott Campbell who indicated that if this transfer was approved these pending applications would be withdrawn.