



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1301 North Orchard Street, Boise, ID 83706 - P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0098
Phone: (208) 327-7900 Fax: (208) 327-7866 Web Site: www.idwr.state.id.us

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

March 4, 2004

KARL J. DREHER
Director

THOMAS G THOMAS
JEFFREY J THOMAS
2705 W 2000 N
MALAD CITY ID 83252

RE: Application to appropriate water no. 15-7256

Gentlemen:

You filed application to appropriate water no. 15-7256 with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) seeking the appropriation of 2.18 cubic feet per second (cfs) of ground water for irrigation of 109 acres. The proposed point of diversion and place of use is located in Oneida County. Notice of the application was published in the local newspaper and no protests were filed with IDWR. Application no. 15-7256 was sent to this office for final review.

I understand that you sought an expedited drilling permit from IDWR's Eastern Regional Office. I also understand that a drilling permit was issued to you, and that you are in the process of or have drilled the well identified as a point of diversion in application to appropriate water no. 15-7256.

On February 23, 2004, this office received a letter from several residents of Oneida County expressing concern about the diversion of water proposed by application no. 15-7256. A copy of the letter is enclosed.

Also enclosed are some hydrographs for the Malad Basin and a copy of a memorandum analyzing the availability of water resources in the Malad Basin. The hydrograph in the upper right hand corner shows some declines in water level since 1985. These declines are nearing the similar lows in ground water levels depicted in the 1960s.

The letter of concern asserts that water levels are declining in the area. It also expresses concern that your irrigation well will impact several nearby domestic or stockwater wells.

IDWR must determine whether your proposed use of water will injure other water rights and whether the water supply is sufficient for the purpose sought. IDWR will use the information it has available to it to determine whether the ground water resources in the area are sufficient to sustain the additional appropriation of water. The issue of whether pumping from your proposed well will injure water rights, is a matter for you to establish for the department.

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By this letter I am requesting that you provide technical evidence to show that pumping your proposed well will not injure other water rights. I suggest that you conduct a pumping test to determine the effect the pumping of your well will have on other nearby wells. Prior to the test, you will need to submit a plan of the pump test to Dennis Dunn of IDWR's Eastern Regional Office. Unless you have some experience related to these pump tests, it should be conducted by a licensed geologist or engineer, or other person having experience with pump testing. In addition to testing the rate of withdrawal and draw downs in your well, water level declines in at least one and possibly two nearby wells should also be monitored during the same test to determine the effect of pumping. This test needs to be completed prior to any diversion of ground water for beneficial use in 2004.

There may be alternatives to conducting the pump test, but the test is the most straightforward way to establish the extent of impact your well will have on other water users. If you wish to discuss this further, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary Spackman".

Gary Spackman

Enclosures

Cc: Dennis Dunn
Roger Warner