

Lafortune, Thomas

To: Kristin Moore
Cc: 'Thane Kindred'; 'Smith, Joe'
Subject: RE: Knife River applications

Kristin,

I have had a chance to talk with the watermaster Blake Jordan about this proposal. When Blake visited the Cranny Pit at the end of 2023, the vault containing the flowmeter was filled with water, with the flowmeter completely submerged and inoperable. It is also not a department approved flowmeter. 2023 water use was estimated based on the 2022 reading.

In order to accurately assess water use at the site, two flowmeters may be required; one to measure consumptive use and one to measure the nonconsumptive washing of aggregate. Additionally, is the aggregate washing completely nonconsumptive? Transfer application 88172 accounts for water retention in the washed gravel at the proposed Stibal Pit.

Until some of these issues are resolved, I am not sure that the department has enough information to process this application or an application for permit. Let me know what you think about these concerns.

Thanks,

Thomas Lafortune
Water Resource Agent, Sr.
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Idaho Falls, ID 83402



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

From: Kristin Moore <kristin.rmea@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 10:48 AM
To: Lafortune, Thomas <Thomas.Lafortune@idwr.idaho.gov>
Cc: 'Thane Kindred' <thane.rmea@gmail.com>; 'Smith, Joe' <Joe.Smith@kniferiver.com>
Subject: Knife River applications

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Tom,

We've done some digging with Knife River to figure out why their water usage was so high on the WMIS record. Joe Smith is the Regional Environmental Manager for the Knife River Mountain Region and he provided us with some values and some operation history.

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Tom,

We've done some digging with Knife River to figure out why their water usage was so high on the WMIS record. Joe Smith is the Regional Environmental Manager for the Knife River Mountain Region and he provided us with some values and some operation history.

For ease of reference, the current place of use for the Knife River water rights 25-14344, 25-14351, 25-14499, and 25-14498 is referred to as the Cranny Pit. The proposed place of use for the pending applications is referred to as the Stibal pit.

The water rights for the Cranny Pit authorize a total of 33 afa. In addition, they get another 4 afa from the Sunnyside Park Utilities industrial right 25-13979. Total allowable for their entire operation is 37.7 afa, but only 33 afa is authorized from their well. About 10-20% of production is tied to the Sunnyside Park Utilities well, which is connected to the old concrete batch plant. The remainder of their production comes through their main plant, which is tied to Knife River's well. Based on their production numbers, they use about 50 gallons of water per yard of concrete, which includes washing out the drums, and is likely a slight overestimate. Their production numbers show about 15.3 acre-feet total used for mixing concrete. Based on distribution of production, the numbers may look like this for concrete mixing:

Old Plant (Utilities well)	1.5 – 3 afa
New Plant (Knife River well)	12.2 - 13.8 afa

In addition, water is taken from the Knife River well for dust control, which is estimated at 2.2 afa.

Total water that was anticipated to have been diverted from Knife River well is approximately 14 - 16 afa.

When we began preparing these applications, Joe estimated that they needed to retain 20 afa to use at the Cranny Pit for mixing concrete. Between the Utilities well and the Knife River well, and based on their production, 20 afa of consumptive water rights would have provided the water necessary to carry on with the anticipated production rates.

In making inquiries, it was discovered that some operational errors occurred, resulting in washing of aggregate from the well at the Cranny Pit that was unknown to the regional manager. The local manager was unaware of the water right limitations. Now that the managers are aware, it is apparent that if they want to use their well for washing aggregate at the Cranny Pit in amounts they hope for, then they need an additional water right for non-consumptive use. However, we know that this will take them some time to get in place and they need the water at the Cranny Pit until such time that a new permit is authorized. Here's what we propose:

1. We will submit a new Application for Permit for some washing water at the Cranny Pit.
2. The pending Water Bank Lease application will be withdrawn.