

**BEFORE THE WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OF THE
STATE OF OREGON**

In the Matter of Groundwater	)	PROPOSED FINAL ORDER APPROVING
Registration Modification Application	)	RECOGNITION OF A MODIFICATION IN
T-14308, Yamhill County	)	POINT OF APPROPRIATION

Authority

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 537.610, 537.705 and 540.505 to 540.586 establish the process in which the holder of a certificate of registration may submit a request for recognition of modifications to the place of use, character of use or point of appropriation under a groundwater certificate of registration.

ORS 537.610(5) outlines the circumstances under which the Department may deny a change in point of appropriation.

Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 690, Divisions 382 and 380 implement the statutes and provide the Department's procedures and criteria for evaluating groundwater registration modification applications.

Applicant

KIT JOHNSTON
11320 SE LAFAYETTE HWY
DAYTON, OR 97114

Findings of Fact

1. On August 2, 2023, Kit Johnston filed a groundwater registration modification application to modify the point of appropriation under Registration Application GR-1696 (Certificate of Registration GR 1645). The Department assigned the application number T-14308.
2. On November 15, 1967, Registration Application GR-1696 (Certificate of Registration GR-1645) was assigned from Wilhelm A. Paulson to Olen E. Opheim and Jean M. Opheim.

Under OAR 690-382-0900 and ORS 536.077(1), any person may file a protest of this Proposed Final Order within 45 days after publication of notice of this Proposed Final Order in the Department's weekly notice. Under OAR 690-382-0900 and ORS 536.077(2), if a protest is filed, any person who supports this Proposed Final Order may file a request for party status within 30 days after the deadline for filing a protest. Please refer to the end of this document for further information about filing protests and requests for party status.

3. Notice of the application for groundwater registration modification was published on August 22, 2023, pursuant to OAR 690-382-0600. No comments were filed in response to the notice.
4. On August 30, 2023, Registration Application GR-1696 (Certificate of Registration GR-1645) was partially assigned from Olen E. Opheim and Jean M. Opheim to Kit Johnston.
5. On September 22, 2026, the Department sent a copy of the Initial Review proposing to approve Groundwater Registration Modification Application T-14308 to the applicant. The Initial Review cover letter set forth a deadline of October 23, 2026, for the applicant to respond. The applicant requested that the Department proceed with issuance of a Proposed Final Order and provided the necessary information to demonstrate that the applicant is authorized to pursue the Groundwater Registration Modification.
6. The portion of the groundwater registration to be modified is as follows:

Registration: Application GR-1696 (Certificate of Registration GR-1645), in the name of Wilhelm A. Paulson (*partially assigned to Kit Johnston*)

Tentative

Priority Date: JULY 1951

Quantity: 100.8 GALLONS PER MINUTE

Source: PUMP WELL

Original Point of Appropriation:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
4 S	3 W	WM	31	SE SW	501 FEET NORTH AND 1772 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SECTION 31

Original Place of Use:

IRRIGATION					
Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
4 S	3 W	WM	31	SW SW	23.3
4 S	3 W	WM	31	SE SW	9.5
Total					32.8

7. Groundwater Registration Modification Application T-14308 proposes to modify the points of appropriation with approximate distances as described below:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	DLC	Measured Distances	Distance from Authorized Well in Feet (ft.)
4 S	3 W	WM	31	SE SW	59	WELL 1 - 200 FEET NORTH AND 1410 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SECTION 31	475 feet SW
4 S	3 W	WM	31	SE SW	59	WELL 2 - 665 FEET NORTH AND 1830 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SECTION 31	200 feet NE

***Review Criteria for Groundwater Registration Modification Applications
[OAR 690-382-0100(1), 690-382-0700(2), 690-382-1000(1) and 690-380-2110(2)]***

8. The proposed modification would not result in a state Scenic Waterway not receiving previously available water during periods in which stream flows are less than the quantities determined by the Department to be necessary to meet the requirements of ORS 390.835.
9. The proposed points of appropriation develop groundwater from the same aquifer as the authorized point of appropriation, as required by OAR 690-380-2110(2).
10. The proposed modification would not result in enlargement of the registration.
11. The proposed modification would not result in injury to other water rights.
12. All other application requirements are met.

Determination and Proposed Action

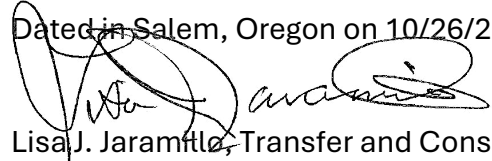
The modification in point of appropriation proposed in Groundwater Registration Modification T-14308 appear to be consistent with the requirements of ORS 537.610, 537.705, 540.505 to 540.580 and OAR 690-382-1000. If protests are not filed pursuant to OAR 690-382-0900, the modification will be approved.

If Groundwater Registration Modification T-14308 is approved, the final order will include the following:

1. *The modification to Registration Application GR-1696 (Certificate of Registration GR-1645) proposed in Groundwater Registration Modification Application T-14308 is recognized. Recognition of the modification shall not be construed as a final determination of the right to appropriate groundwater under the certificate of registration or modification. Such a determination will occur in an adjudication proceeding under ORS 537.670 to 537.695.*
2. *The use of the water is restricted to beneficial use at the place of use described and is subject to all other conditions and limitations contained in Registration Application GR-1696 (Certificate of Registration GR-1645) and any related decree.*
3. *Approval of this groundwater registration modification application does not constitute nor grant legal access onto or through another person's property for purposes of accessing the new points of appropriation.*
4. *Water shall be acquired from the same aquifer (water source) as the original point of appropriation.*

5. *Water shall no longer be appropriated from the original point of appropriation as part of this groundwater certificate of registration.*
6. *The quantity of water diverted at the proposed points of appropriation (Well 1 and Well 2) shall not exceed the quantity of water lawfully available at the original point of appropriation (Pump Well).*

Dated in Salem, Oregon on 10/26/2026



Lisa J. Jaramillo, Transfer and Conservation Section Manager, for
IVAN GALL, DIRECTOR
Oregon Water Resources Department

This Proposed Final Order was prepared by Elyse Hennen. If you have questions about the information in this document, you may reach me at 971-701-5485 or at elyse.d.hennen@water.oregon.gov.

Pursuant to ORS 536.077(4) and (5), if no protest of this Proposed Final Order is received by December 11, 2026, and the Department does not withdraw this Proposed Final Order on or before January 13, 2027, this Proposed Final Order is a final order without any further action by the Department on January 13, 2027.

Protests and Requests for Party Status

The following sections explain how to: (1) file a protest in opposition to this Proposed Final Order to request a contested case hearing on this Proposed Final Order; and (2) file a request for party status to request to participate in any contested case proceeding in support of this Proposed Final Order.

Protests: Under the provisions of OAR 690-382-0900 and ORS 536.077(1), any person may protest this Proposed Final Order. Protests may be mailed or hand delivered to the Oregon Water Resources Department at 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A, Salem, OR 97301. If you submit a protest by U.S. mail, please consider mailing early to ensure the Department receives the protest by the deadline. Protests may be emailed to will.davidson@water.oregon.gov, but payment of Protest fees cannot be accepted electronically and must be received by the Department by mail or hand delivery prior to the deadline. Protests and protest fees must be received by the Water Resources Department no later than **December 11, 2026**.

Protests must meet the following requirements:

- Be in writing;
- Include the protestant's name, address, telephone number, and email address, if the protestant has an email address;
- Include the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the protestant's attorney, if the protestant is represented by an attorney;
- Include a description of the protestant's interest in the Proposed Final Order, and, if the protestant claims to represent the public interest, a precise statement of the public interest represented;
- Include a detailed description of how the action proposed in the Proposed Final Order would impair or be detrimental to the protestant's interest and/or the claimed public interest;
- Identify which of the Proposed Final Order's recommended findings of fact, conclusions of law or conditions of approval the protestant objects to;
- Raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and include all reasonably available arguments that support the protestant's position;
- Include any citation of legal authority to support the protest, if known;
- Explain how the issues raised in the protest are within the Department's jurisdiction;
- If the protestant is the applicant, include a protest fee of \$720 required by ORS 536.050; and
- If the protestant is not the applicant, include a protest fee of \$1,425 required by ORS 536.050.

Requests for Party Status: Under the provisions of OAR 690-382-0900 and ORS 536.077(2), if this Proposed Final Order is protested, any person who supports this Proposed Final Order may file a request for party status to request to participate in any contested case proceeding on the Proposed Final Order or for judicial review of a final order resulting from the Proposed Final Order. There is no need for the applicant to file a request for party status. The applicant will automatically be a party to any contested case proceeding on this Proposed Final Order. Requests for party status may be mailed or hand delivered to the Oregon Water Resources Department at 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A, Salem, OR 97301. If you submit a request for party status by U.S. mail, please consider mailing early to ensure the Department receives the request by the deadline. Requests for party status may be emailed to will.d.davidson@water.oregon.gov, but payment of request for party status fees cannot be accepted electronically and must be received by the Department by mail or hand delivery prior to the deadline. Requests for party status and request for party status fees must be received by the Water Resources Department no later than **January 11, 2027**.

Requests for party status must be in writing and include the following:

- Names, addresses, and email addresses (if any) of the requestor and any organization the requestor represents;
- Name, address, and email address of the requestor's attorney, if any;
- A statement of whether the request is for participation as a party or a limited party, and, if as a limited party, the precise area or areas in which participation is sought;
- If the requestor seeks to protect a personal interest in the outcome of any contested case hearing on the Proposed Final Order, a detailed statement of the requestor's interest, economic or otherwise, and how such interest may be affected by the results of the hearing;
- If the requestor seeks to represent a public interest in the results of any contested case hearing on the Proposed Final Order, a detailed statement of such public interest, the manner in which such public interest will be affected by the results of the hearing, and the requestor's qualifications to represent such public interest;
- A statement of the reasons why existing parties to the proceeding cannot adequately represent the private and/or public interest(s) the requestor seeks to represent; and
- The request for party status fee of \$1,425 required by ORS 536.077(2)(b)(C) and ORS 536.050.

After the deadline for requests for party status, the Department will provide copies of any timely requests for party status, accept responses to requests for party status, and consider and rule on timely requests for party status as provided in OAR 690-002-0225.

Additional Notices

Notice of requirement to provide updated contact information: Parties must timely provide the Department with updated contact information, including any change of address or primary means of electronic communication. The contact information provided in the protest or request for party status, as applicable, is presumed to be valid for the purposes of service and notification of upcoming referral to the Office of Administrative Hearings unless timely updated by the party. OAR 690-002-0081.

Notice of the circumstances under which this Proposed Final Order will become a final order: If no protest of this Proposed Final Order is timely received and the Department does not withdraw this Proposed Final Order for reconsideration within 33 days after the close of the period for submitting a protest, this Proposed Final Order will become a final order on the date that is 33 days after the close of the period for submitting a protest, with no further action required by the Department. If a protest or protests are timely received, but later: (1) all timely-filed protests are withdrawn and the withdrawals are not based on a settlement agreement requiring changes to this Proposed Final Order;

(2) all protestants fail to appear at a scheduled hearing; or (3) all protestants notify the Department or the administrative law judge that the protestants will not appear at a scheduled hearing, the protestants will have waived any right to a hearing, and the Department or the administrative law judge will issue an order dismissing the protests and notifying the parties that this Proposed Final Order has become a final order. OAR 690-002-0235; OAR 137-003-0672. The Department designates the relevant portions of its file on this matter, including all materials that you have submitted relating to this matter, as the record for the purpose of proving a prima facie case upon default. OAR 137-003-0672.

Notice of right to be represented by an attorney: You may be represented by an attorney at any contested case hearing on this Proposed Final Order. Legal aid organizations may be able to assist a party with limited financial resources. Generally, partnerships, corporations, associations, governmental subdivisions or public or private organizations are represented by an attorney. However, consistent with OAR 690-002-0020 and OAR 137-003-0555, an “authorized representative” as defined at OAR 137-003-0555(1)(b) may represent a partnership, corporation, association, governmental subdivision or public or private organization if the Department determines that appearance of a person by an authorized representative will not hinder the orderly and timely development of the record in this case.

Notice to active duty servicemembers: Active-duty service members have a right to stay proceedings under the federal Service Members Civil Relief Act. 50 U.S.C. App. §§501-597b. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 971-355-1427, or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>.

If you have questions about how to file a protest or a request for party status, or if you have previously filed a protest or a request for party status and you want to know the status, please contact Will Davidson at 503-507-2749.

If you have questions about the Department or any of its programs, please contact our Water Resources Customer Service Group at 503-986-0900.

Address any correspondence to: Oregon Water Resources Department, Transfer and Conservation Section, 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A, Salem OR 97301-1266.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Water Resources Department

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October 26, 2026

KIT JOHNSTON
11320 SE LAFAYETTE HWY
DAYTON, OR 97114

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND E-MAIL

SUBJECT: Groundwater Registration Modification T-14308

Please find enclosed the Proposed Final Order indicating that, based on the information available, the Department intends to approve application T-14308. This document is an intermediate step in the approval process; water may not be used legally as proposed in the groundwater registration modification application until a Final Order has been issued by the Department. Please read this entire letter carefully to determine your responsibility for additional action.

A public notice is being published in the Department's weekly publication, simultaneously with issuance of the Proposed Final Order. The notice initiates a period in which any person may file either a protest opposing the decision proposed by the Department in the Proposed Final Order or a request for party status supporting the Department's decision. The protest period will end 45 days after the Department's notice.

If no protest is filed, the Proposed Final Order will become a Final Order 33 days after the protest period ends, without any further action by the Department.

If a protest is filed, the application may be referred to a contested case proceeding. A contested case provides an opportunity for the proponents and opponents of the decision proposed in the Proposed Final Order to present information and arguments supporting their position in a quasi-judicial proceeding.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 971-701-5485 or
Elyse.D.Hennen@water.oregon.gov, if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Elyse Hennen
Transfer Specialist
Transfer and Conservation Section

cc: GR Modification Application File T-14308
Joel M. Plahn, District 22 Watermaster (*via e-mail*)
Doann Hamilton, Agent for the applicant (*via e-mail*)

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