

Oregon Water Resources Department

Final Order
Limited License Application LL-1973



Appeal Rights

This is a final order in other than contested case. This order is subject to judicial review under ORS 183.484. Any petition for judicial review must be filed within the 60-day time period specified by ORS 183.484(2). Pursuant to ORS 536.075 and OAR 137-004-0080 you may either petition for judicial review or petition the Director for reconsideration of this order. A petition for reconsideration may be granted or denied by the Director, and if no action is taken within 60 days following the date the petition was filed, the petition shall be deemed denied.

Requested Water Use

Applicant: CITY OF INDEPENDENCE

Date Submitted: APRIL 11, 2024

Amount: 2.5 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND (CFS) UP TO 1,810 ACRE-FEET ANNUALLY, BEING 1.2 CFS FROM WELL 3 (POLK 52307) AND 1.3 CFS FROM WELL 4 (POLK 54296)

Source: TWO WELLS

Use: MUNICIPAL USE

Duration: YEAR-ROUND USE FROM LIMITED LICENSE ISSUE DATE THROUGH FIVE YEARS OR UPON APPROVAL OF A PERMIT EXTENSION AND SUBSEQUENT ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION FROM WELL 3 (POLK 52307) AND WELL 4 (POLK 54296) UNDER PERMIT G-12134

County: POLK COUNTY

Well Locations: WELL 3 (POLK 52307) 8.00S-4.00W-21 NW SE
WELL 4 (POLK 54296) 8.00S-4.00W-21 SE NE

Authorities

The Department may approve a limited license pursuant to its authority under ORS 537.143, 537.144 and OAR 690-340-0030.

ORS 537.143(2) authorizes the Director to revoke the right to use water under a limited license if it causes injury to any water right or a minimum perennial streamflow.

A limited license will not be issued for more than five consecutive years for the same use, as directed by ORS 537.143(8).

Findings of Fact

1. The forms, fees, and map have been submitted, as required by OAR 690-340-0030(1).

2. On April 16, 2024, the Department provided public notice of the application, as required by OAR 690-340-0030(2).
3. The Department has received public comment related to the possible issuance of the limited license from WaterWatch of Oregon. In summary, the comment received expressed concern regarding the use of the limited license as a “bridge” to related water right transactions.
4. This limited license request is limited to an area within a single drainage basin, as required by OAR 690-340-0030(3).
5. As part of its review to determine groundwater availability, the Department has determined that groundwater is not over appropriated, and is available for the requested use. The proposed use will, if properly conditioned, avoid injury to existing groundwater rights or to the groundwater resource. The Department has stipulated conditions pertaining to measurement and reporting, decline in static water level, and production only from the alluvial groundwater reservoir. A copy of this review is in the file.
6. The Department has determined that the proposed groundwater use will have the potential for substantial interference with surface water, namely, the Willamette River.
7. The finding of the potential for substantial interference requires that surface water availability be considered. Surface water is available during the full period requested.
8. The Department has determined that the proposed source has not been withdrawn from further appropriation per ORS 538.
9. The Department may not issue a limited license for the same use for more than five consecutive years. (ORS 537.143)(8).
10. Because the use requested is longer than 120 days and because the use is in an area that has sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species, the use is subject to the Department’s statewide rules under OAR 690-033-0310. These rules aid the Department in determining whether a proposed use will impair or be detrimental to the public interest with regard to sensitive, threatened, or endangered fish species. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) recommended conditions to achieve the standards listed in OAR 690-033-0330(2)(a) and (b). The authorization of limited-license LL-1973 is conditioned to address the recommendations.
11. Pursuant to OAR 690-340-0030(4) and (5), conditions have been added with regard to notice and water-use measurement.
12. The City of Independence has indicated that the proposed use is compatible with the applicable acknowledged comprehensive land-use plan. A copy of the land use compatibility statement is in the file.

Conclusions of Law

The proposed water use will not impair or be detrimental to the public interest pursuant to OAR 690-340-0030(2), as limited in the order below.

Order

Therefore, pursuant to ORS 537.143, ORS 537.144, and OAR 690-340-0030, Application LL-1973 is approved as conditioned below.

1. The authorized use of water under this limited license is as follows:

Amount: 2.5 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND (CFS) UP TO 1,810 ACRE-FEET ANNUALLY, BEING 1.2 CFS FROM WELL 3 (POLK 52307) AND 1.3 CFS FROM WELL 4 (POLK 54296)

Source: TWO WELLS

Use: MUNICIPAL USE

Duration: YEAR-ROUND USE FROM LIMITED LICENSE ISSUE DATE THROUGH FIVE YEARS OR UPON APPROVAL OF A PERMIT EXTENSION AND SUBSEQUENT ISSUANCE OF A PERMIT AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION FROM WELL 3 (POLK 52307) AND WELL 4 (POLK 54296) UNDER PERMIT G-12134

Well Locations: WELL 3 (POLK 52307) 8.00S-4.00W-21 NW SE
WELL 4 (POLK 54296) 8.00S-4.00W-21 SE NE

2. The licensee shall give notice to the Watermaster in the district where use is to occur not less than 15 days or more than 60 days in advance of using the water under the limited license. The notice shall include the location of the diversion, the quantity of water to be diverted, and the intended use and place of use. In the case of this application, this order serves as the notice described above.
3. Before water use may begin under this limited license, the licensee shall install a totalizing flow meter at each point of appropriation. The totalizing flow meter must be installed and maintained in good working order.
4. The licensee shall maintain a record of all water use, including the total number of hours of pumping, the total quantity pumped, and the categories of beneficial use to which the water is applied. During the period of the limited license, the record of use shall be submitted to the Department annually, and shall be submitted to the Watermaster upon request.
5. For each well on this authorization, beginning on the limited license signature date for existing wells or in the year well construction is completed for new wells, and each year thereafter, the licensee must report a static water-level measurement ("measurement") taken in March. The measurement is required whether the well is used or not. If pumping is to commence following completion of the well and prior to the next March, then a measurement must be made at least one week following well completion and before pumping commences.

Measurements must be properly reported within 30 days of measurement using forms specified by the Department. A measurement will be properly reported if the submission includes all required information as listed in the document attached. Measurements must be made with equipment that is accurate to the standards specified in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 690-217-0045.

Measurements must be made by a certified water rights examiner, registered professional geologist, registered professional engineer, licensed land surveyor, licensed well constructor, pump installer licensed by the Construction Contractors Board, or Department staff. The Department is not responsible for regular measurement of the static water level, but Department staff may measure the

well during the normal course of groundwater level monitoring or to confirm the submitted measurement(s).

For each well on this limited license, the Department has established a reference groundwater level using the best available data (see table below).

The Department established the following reference levels for the following wells on this limited license:

POA Number	Well Name	Well Log ID	Water Level Depth (feet below land surface)	Measurement Date (if applicable)
1	Well 3	POLK 52307	13.6	3/13/2018
2	Well 4	POLK 54296	10.6	3/13/2018

All water use authorized under this limited license must immediately stop if any of the following occur:

- A. Any annual high elevation static groundwater level in any well on this limited license declines 25 or more feet below the reference level for that well, or
- B. Groundwater levels are not measured and properly reported as specified above for any completed well that is authorized on the limited license for two consecutive years, or
- C. Hydraulic interference contributes to a decline of 25 or more feet in any neighboring well with senior priority, at any time during the year.

The Department will determine when any of the above conditions have occurred and may order the licensee to stop all water use under this limited license. The licensee is also responsible for stopping all water use if they become aware that any of the conditions have occurred, even without notice from the Department. Following such a stop, water use under this limited license will not be allowed and may only resume once the licensee receives notice from the Department. If the licensee fails to stop use, then the Department may take control of the controlling works of any wells authorized under this limited license and may reduce the amount of groundwater pumped until the unlawful use is eliminated.

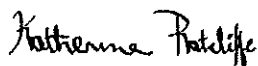
The licensee acknowledges that that one or more of the conditions requiring stoppage of use may occur prior to any use of any well on this limited license.

The Department may allow the licensee to pause annual water level measurement and reporting requirements from some of the authorized wells if measurements from those wells are redundant with other data being collected by the Department. The licensee must receive written notification of such an allowance before stopping measurements. If this happens, the Department may reinstate the measurement requirements at any time.

6. Groundwater production is only allowed from the **alluvial** groundwater reservoir.
7. The Director may revoke the right to use water for any reason described in ORS 537.143(2), and OAR 690-340-0030(6). Such revocation may be prompted by field regulatory activities or by any other information.
8. Use of water under a limited license shall not have priority over any water right exercised according to a permit or certificate, and shall be subordinate to all other authorized uses that rely upon the same source.
9. By law, the land use associated with this water use must be in compliance with statewide land-use goals and any local acknowledged land-use plan.
10. A copy of this limited license shall be kept at the place of use, and be made available for inspection by the Watermaster or other state authority.

NOTE: This water-use authorization is temporary. Applicants are advised that issuance of this final order does not guarantee that any permit for the authorized use will be issued in the future; any investments should be made with that in mind.

Issued AUG 06 2024



Katherine Ratcliffe
Water Rights Section Manager, *for*
Ivan Gall, Director
Oregon Water Resources Department

cc: Joel M. Plahn, District 22 Watermaster
Western, ODFW
Middle Willamette, DEQ
GSI Water Solutions, Inc., Attn: Kimberly Grigsby
Surface Water Section
File
OWRD WMCP

If you need further assistance, please contact the Water Rights Section at the address, phone number, or fax number below. When contacting the Department, be sure to reference your limited license number for fastest service.

Remember, this limited license does not provide a secure source of water. Water use can be revoked at any time. Such revocation may be prompted by field regulatory activities or many other reasons.

Water Rights Section
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