Oregon
Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Water Resources Department
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MEMORANDUM

PREPARED FOR: AR LL-1970 application file, Hudson Bay District Improvement Company (HBDIC), and Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC)

PREPARED BY: Jen Woody, Hydrogeologist

SUBJECT: Artificial groundwater recharge (AR) application LL-1970

DATE: 10/23/2026



Expires: 12/31/2026

Application Timeline

3/22/2024: OWRD receives application LL-1970 for AR testing.

7/29/2024: OWRD receives Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) comments.

8/13/2024: DEQ technical staff approve AR water quality monitoring plan.

8/29/2024: OWRD notifies WWBWC their application cannot be processed until they supply written permission from Walla Walla River Irrigation District (WWRID) to use their canals as the distribution system for AR.

11/18/2024: WWBWC provides an updated application map that reduces AR sites to those served only by HBDIC, because WWRID did not grant permission to access their canal system.

12/18/2024: WWBWC provides an updated application rate of ## to align with the reduced project size.

1/7/2025-8/28/2025: OWRD coordinates with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

10/??/2025: OWRD staff meet with WWBWC staff to discuss the project's path forward. Discussion includes narrowing the project goals to better align with project actions and making goal accomplishments demonstrable through the monitoring data and analysis.

2/2/2026: OWRD receives comments from ODFW.

2/3/2026: WWBWC sends draft project goals and monitoring well network to OWRD for review.

2/18/2026: OWRD provides goal and monitoring well review comments to WWBWC.

3/12/2026: OWRD receives Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Division 33 limited license review.

4/6/2026: OWRD provides LL-1970 incompleteness notice and memo to WWBWC.

9/17/2026: OWRD receives an updated monitoring plan and project description from WWBWC; the AR monitoring plan is approved.

Application Status as of 10/22/2026

1. OWRD, DEQ, CTUIR and ODFW have reviewed and commented on the application.
2. DEQ groundwater staff have approved water quality monitoring plan elements.
3. **OWRD groundwater section finds the application complete for artificial recharge purposes, after inclusion of the 9/17/2026 test and monitoring plan submission.**
4. CTUIR comments request a more thorough review of the project, raise questions about process, Walla Walla River flow targets and benefits.
5. ODFW comments recommend multiple conditions, require a bypass monitoring plan to be approved before LL- 1970 issuance and request a 2-year issuance limit. See ODFW memo for details.
6. DEQ Division 33 comments echo ODFW bypass flow requirements.
7. Bypass flow monitoring plan has not yet been received as required by ODFW.

Rule Requirements for LL for AR Testing Application Contents

While there is one item still required by ODFW, OWRD groundwater section's review of this application is now complete.

690-350-120(1) Permit required to conduct AR. This application seeks that authorization. No action needed.

690-350-120(2) Pre-application Conference required. This requirement was met. No action needed.

690-350-0120(3)(a)Instream Flow Right. There is no instream water right on the Walla Walla River. ODFW specified bypass flows. ODFW also requires a bypass flow monitoring plan, which is not yet submitted and approved.

690-350-0120(3)(b) Water Quality Permit. DEQ has reviewed and approved the August 2020 Proposed Surface Water and Groundwater Quality monitoring plan, and does not require additional DEQ permitting.

690-350-0120(3)(c) Purpose of Recharge. The purpose is artificial groundwater recharge, with no storage account. No action needed.

690-350-0120(3)(d) Annual Storage. Outlined in the application. No action needed.

690-350-0120(3)(e) Financial capability. Not required for LL. No action needed.

690-350-0120(3)(f) Hydrogeologic Feasibility Report. The application refers to a Hydrogeologic Report on the WWBWC website. This report is stamped by an RG and meets basic requirements.

690-350-0120(3)(g) Project Description Report. The 9/17/2026 resubmission of the monitoring plan and project description report has been reviewed and approved. No action needed.

690-350-0120(3)(h) Additional information as required by Department. None required.

Recommended artificial groundwater recharge related conditions

1. If LL-1970 is issued, it should include the following standard AR conditions:
    a. **Water Quality.** The licensee shall comply with all ODEQ water quality standards and permitting requirements. If monitoring data or other information result in identification of potential water quality concerns, ODEQ may seek modifications to the monitoring and test plans and/or require a permit of its own to address the water quality concerns prior to resumption of artificial groundwater recharge testing.
    b. **Annual report.** The licensee is required to provide a written annual report by February 15 of each year. This report will detail recharge testing and any subsequent recovery under a secondary limited license from the preceding water year. Reporting shall include, but is not limited to, the results of testing efforts that relate to water quality, water quantity, and operations. Water level

data collected by the project shall be submitted in a Department-specified digital format. The licensee shall consult with ODEQ and OWRD to identify additional specific reporting elements. The first report is due February 15, 2028. The annual report shall be signed and sealed by a professional(s) registered or allowed, under Oregon law, to practice geology.

c. **Operation and monitoring**. The licensee shall follow the operation, water quality and water level monitoring plans described in the document entitled, "Artificial Groundwater Recharge Testing, Supporting materials for Limited License Application LL-1970," received by the Department on September 29, 2026. This plan may be modified after review and approval of changes by the Department.

d. **Water use measurement**. Before water use may begin under this license, the licensee shall install a totalizing flowmeter at each point of diversion and at the entry point to each recharge test site. The totalizing flow meters must be installed and maintained in good working order.