



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

**Water Resources Department**

North Mall Office Building  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A  
Salem, OR 97301-1271  
503-986-0900  
FAX 503-986-0904

December 19, 2008

**Certified Mail  
Return Receipt Requested**

BEN CASE  
CASE AG PROPERTIES LLC  
63136 WALLSINGER RD  
COVE, OR 97824

Reference: File G-17082

Dear Mr. Case:

**THIS IS NOT A PERMIT AND IS  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE NEXT PHASE OF PROCESSING.**

This letter is to inform you of the preliminary analysis of your water use permit application and to describe your options. In determining whether a water use permit application may be approved, the Department must consider the factors listed below, all of which must be favorable to the proposed use if it is to be allowed. Based on the information you have supplied, the Water Resources Department has made the following preliminary determinations:

Initial Review Determinations:

1. The application requested the use of 4.45 cubic feet per second (CFS) of water, from Well 1 and Well 2 for irrigation use from March 1 through October 31 of each year.
2. The proposed use is not prohibited by law or rule except where otherwise noted below.
3. The use of water from Well 1 and Well 2 in Grande Ronde River Basin for irrigation use is allowable under the Grande Ronde Basin program.
4. If properly conditioned, the proposed use of ground water will avoid injury to existing ground water rights and the resource.

The Department has determined, based upon OAR 690-009, that the proposed ground water use will not have the potential for substantial interference with any surface water source.

5. The Department has determined that there are deficiencies with the application. Please refer to the **Additional Information Required** section below for specific information.

### Summary of Initial Determinations

**The use of 4.45 CFS from Well 1 and Well 2 in Grande Ronde River Basin for irrigation use on 640.0 acres is allowable during the full period requested, March 1 through October 1.**

Because of these favorable determinations, the Department can now move your application to the next phase of the water-rights application review process, where public interest factors will be evaluated.

#### Additional Information Required:

Additional information is required to process your application prior to issuance of any Proposed Final Order that may recommend approval. Please provide the following item:

- Please complete page 2 of your application form (attached) stating whether you have written authorization or easements permitting access to the lands you do not own.

**Please submit this information no later than January 15, 2009.** If you are unable to submit the information listed above, you may request an administrative hold for up to an additional 180 days. You must submit the request in writing, stating how much more time you will need and why you need additional time. If an administrative hold is granted, your application will not be processed further until the requested information is received or the extended deadline has passed.

If we do not receive the items requested above or a request for an administrative hold by this date, the Department will likely proceed with a Proposed Final Order recommending denial of the application.

Please reference the application number when sending any correspondence regarding the conclusions of this initial review. Comments received within the comment period will be evaluated at the next phase of the process.

#### To Proceed With Your Application:

If you choose to proceed with your application, you do not have to notify the Department. Your application will automatically be placed on the Department's Public Notice to allow others the opportunity to comment. After the comment period the Department will complete a public interest review and issue a Proposed Final Order.

#### Withdrawal Refunds:

If you choose not to proceed, you may withdraw your application and receive a refund (minus a \$150 processing charge per application.) To accomplish this you must notify the Department in writing by **Friday, January 2, 2009**. For your convenience you may use the enclosed "STOP PROCESSING" form.

If A Permit Is Issued It Will Likely Include The Following Conditions:

1. Measurement, recording and reporting conditions:
  - A. Before water use may begin under this permit, the permittee shall install a totalizing flow meter or other suitable measuring device as approved by the Director at each point of appropriation. The permittee shall maintain the meter or measuring device in good working order, shall keep a complete record of the amount of water used each month, and shall submit a report which includes the recorded water use measurements to the Department annually or more frequently as may be required by the Director. Further, the Director may require the permittee to report general water-use information, including the place and nature of use of water under the permit.
  - B. The permittee shall allow the watermaster access to the meter or measuring device; provided however, where the meter or measuring device is located within a private structure, the watermaster shall request access upon reasonable notice.
2. The Department requires the water user to obtain, from a qualified individual (see below), and report annual static water levels for each well on the permit. The static water level shall be measured in the month of March. Reports shall be submitted to the Department within 30 days of measurement.

The permittee shall report an initial March static water-level measurement once well construction is complete and annual measurements thereafter. Annual measurements are required whether or not the well is used. The first annual measurement will establish a reference level against which future measurements will be compared. However, the Director may establish the reference level based on an analysis of other water-level data. The Director may require the user to obtain and report additional water levels each year if more data are needed to evaluate the aquifer system.

All measurements shall be made by a certified water rights examiner, registered professional geologist, registered professional engineer, licensed well constructor or pump installer licensed by the Construction Contractors Board. Measurements shall be submitted on forms provided by, or specified by, the Department. Measurements shall be made with equipment that is accurate to at least the standards specified in OAR 690-217-0045. The Department requires the individual performing the measurement to:

- A. Associate each measurement with an owner's well name or number and a Department well log ID; and
- B. Report water levels to at least the nearest tenth of a foot as depth-to-water below ground surface; and
- C. Specify the method of measurement; and
- D. Certify the accuracy of all measurements and calculations reported to the Department.

The water user shall discontinue use of, or reduce the rate or volume of withdrawal from, the wells if any of the following events occur:

- A. Annual water-level measurements reveal an average water-level decline of three or more feet per year for five consecutive years; or
- B. Annual water-level measurements reveal a water-level decline of 15 or more feet in fewer than five consecutive years; or
- C. Annual water-level measurements reveal a water-level decline of 25 or more feet; or
- D. Hydraulic interference leads to a decline of 25 or more feet in any neighboring well with senior priority.

The period of restricted use shall continue until the water level rises above the decline level which triggered the action or the Department determines, based on the permittee's and/or the Department's data and analysis, that no action is necessary because the aquifer in question can sustain the observed declines without adversely impacting the resource or causing substantial interference with senior water rights. The water user shall not allow excessive decline, as defined in Commission rules, to occur within the aquifer as a result of use under this permit. If more than one well is involved, the water user may submit an alternative measurement and reporting plan for review and approval by the Department.

- 3. The wells shall produce ground water only from the basalt ground water reservoir.
- 4. Use of water under authority of this permit may be regulated if analysis of data available after the permit is issued discloses that the appropriation will measurably reduce the surface water flows necessary to maintain the free-flowing character of a scenic waterway in quantities necessary for recreation, fish and wildlife in effect as of the priority date of the right or as those quantities may be subsequently reduced.

The water source identified in your application may be affected by an Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan. These plans are developed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) with the cooperation of local landowners and other interested stakeholders, and help to ensure that current and new appropriations of water are done in a way that does not adversely harm the environment. You are encouraged to explore ODA's Water Quality Program web site at [http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/water\\_agplans.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/water_agplans.shtml) to learn more about the plans and how they may affect your proposed water use.

If you have any questions:

Feel free to call me at 503-986-0853 if you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter or your application. Please have your application number available if you call. General questions about water rights and water use permits should be directed to our customer service staff at 503-986-0801. When corresponding by mail, please use this address: Michele McAleer, Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St NE Ste A, Salem OR 97301-1266. Our fax number is 503-986-0901.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele R. McAleer".

Michele McAleer  
Water Right Application Caseworker

enclosures:    Application Process Description and Stop Processing Request Form  
                          Copy of Ground Water Application, Page 2

G-17082  
GW

# APPLICATION FACT SHEET

Application File Number: G-17082

Applicant: BEN CASE, CASE AG PROPERTIES LLC

County: UNION

Watermaster: 6

Priority Date: July 16, 2008

Source: WELL 1 AND WELL 2 IN GRANDE RONDE RIVER BASIN

Use: IRRIGATION USE ON 640.0 ACRES

Quantity: 4.45 CFS

Basin Name & Number: Grande Ronde, #8

Stream Index Reference: Volume 1 GRANDE RONDE R

Well Locations:

WELL 1: SENW, SECTION 17, T2S, R39E, W.M.; 50 FEET NORTH AND 50 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SENW, SECTION 17

WELL 2: SESW, SECTION 17, T2S, R39E, W.M.; 90 FEET NORTH AND 290 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SESW, SECTION 17

Place of Use:

NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  40.0 ACRES

NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  40.0 ACRES

SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  40.0 ACRES

SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  40.0 ACRES

SECTION 16

T2S R39E, W.M.

NE ¼ NE ¼ 40.0 ACRES  
NW ¼ NE ¼ 40.0 ACRES  
SW ¼ NE ¼ 40.0 ACRES  
SE ¼ NE ¼ 40.0 ACRES  
NE ¼ NW ¼ 40.0 ACRES  
SE ¼ NW ¼ 40.0 ACRES  
NE ¼ SW ¼ 40.0 ACRES  
SE ¼ SW ¼ 40.0 ACRES  
NE ¼ SE ¼ 40.0 ACRES  
NW ¼ SE ¼ 40.0 ACRES  
SW ¼ SE ¼ 40.0 ACRES  
SE ¼ SE ¼ 40.0 ACRES

SECTION 17

TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 39 EAST, W.M.

**14 DAY STOP PROCESSING DEADLINE DATE: Friday, January 2, 2009**

**PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: Tuesday, December 23, 2008**

**30 DAY COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: Thursday, January 22, 2009**

# Mailing List for IR Copies

Application #G-17082

IR Date: December 19, 2008

## Original mailed to applicant:

BEN CASE, CASE AG PROPERTIES LLC, 63136 WALLSINGER RD, COVE, OR 97824

## Copies sent to:

1. WRD - File # G-17082
2. WRD - Water Availability: Ken Stahr

## IR, Map, and Fact Sheet Copies sent to:

3. WRD - Regional Manager: ER
4. WRD - Watermaster # 6
5. State Parks

## Affected Landowners (include "Notice of Initial Review--Affected Landowner"):

6. Rodney and Wendy Case, 64099 Case Road, Cove, Oregon, 97824
7. Allen Case, 64066 Booth Lane, La Grande, Oregon, 97850

## Copies sent to Other Interested Persons (CWRE, Agent, Well Driller, Commenter, etc.)

<p>Copies Mailed</p> <p>By: _____ (SUPPORT STAFF)</p> <p>on: _____ (DATE)</p>
---

Caseworker: Michele McAleer

COPYSH.T.IR