



# 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

KNIFE RIVER INC  
ATTN: JEFF STEYAERT  
32260 OLD HWY 34  
TANGENT, OR 97389

October 23, 2009

Reference: File G-17190

Dear Applicant:

### **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 proposed the appropriation of 0.89 cubic foot per second (CFS), from Well 1 (LINN 56537) and Well 2 (LINN 56538) in Willamette River Basin for year-round industrial use.
2. The proposed use is not prohibited by law or rule except where otherwise noted below.
3. The appropriation of water from Well 1 (LINN 56537) and Well 2 (LINN 56538) in Willamette River Basin for industrial use is allowable under the Willamette 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 from Well 2 (LINN 56538) will not have the potential for substantial interference with any surface water source. However, the proposed ground water use from Well 1 (LINN 56537) **will** have the potential for substantial interference with Willamette River. Therefore, in accordance with OAR 690-400-0010(11)(a)(B), surface water availability must also be considered. Surface water is available in the amount and for the full period requested.

#### Summary of Initial Determinations

**The appropriation of 0.89 CFS from Well 1 (LINN 56537) and Well 2 (LINN 56538) in Willamette River Basin for year-round industrial use is allowable during the full period requested.**

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.

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 \$200 processing charge per application). To accomplish this you must notify the Department in writing by **Friday, November 6, 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 at each point of appropriation. The permittee shall maintain the meter in good working order.
  - B. The permittee 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.
  - C. The permittee shall allow the watermaster access to the meter; provided however, where any meter is located within a private structure, the watermaster shall request access upon reasonable notice.
  - D. The Director may provide an opportunity for the permittee to submit alternative measuring and reporting procedures for review and approval.
2. Prior to using water from any well listed on this permit, the permittee shall ensure that the well has been assigned an OWRD Well Identification Number (Well ID tag), which shall be permanently attached to the well. The Well ID shall be used as a reference in any correspondence regarding the well, including any reports of water use, water level, or pump test data.

3. If substantial interference with a senior water right occurs due to withdrawal of water from any well listed on this permit, then use of water from the well(s) shall be discontinued or reduced and/or the schedule of withdrawal shall be regulated until or unless the Department approves or implements an alternative administrative action to mitigate the interference. The Department encourages junior and senior appropriators to jointly develop plans to mitigate interferences.
4. 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 well(s) 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.

5. Any replacement well(s) shall be continuously cased and continuously sealed to a minimum depth of 100 feet below land surface. If during well construction, it becomes apparent that the well can be constructed in a manner other than specified in the permit or needs to be completed deeper than 100 feet, the permittee may contact the Ground Water/Hydrology to request a modification of the permit condition. The permittee shall submit, in writing, a rough well log and a proposed construction design for approval by the Department. The well construction condition can be modified only if the request is received and reviewed prior to placement of any permanent casing and sealing material. If the well is constructed first and then the request made, it shall not be granted. The new well depth/construction specifications that were approved will be incorporated into the permit and any certificate issued.

This initial review does not attempt to address various public interest issues such as sensitive, threatened, or endangered fish species. These issues will be addressed as the Department reviews comments from the public and other agencies, and prepares a Proposed Final Order. You should be aware that, if significant public interest issues are found to exist, such a finding could have an impact on the eventual outcome of your application.

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 503-986-0815 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: Joel Plahn, Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St NE Ste A, Salem OR 97301-1266. Our fax number is 503-986-0901.

Sincerely,



Joel Plahn  
Water Right Application Caseworker

enclosures: Application Process Description and Stop Processing Request Form

G-17190  
WAB 2-30200321  
POU 2-30200321  
GW

# APPLICATION FACT SHEET

Application File Number: G-17190

Applicant: KNIFE RIVER INC

County: LINN

Watermaster: 2

Priority Date: MARCH 17, 2009

Source: WELL 1 (LINN 56537) AND WELL 2 (LINN 56538) IN WILLAMETTE RIVER BASIN

Use: INDUSTRIAL USE

Quantity: 0.89 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

Basin Name & Number: Willamette, #2

Stream Index Reference: Volume 26 WILLAMETTE R & TRIBS

Well Location(s):

WELL 1 (LINN 56537) - SENE, SECTION 9, T15S, R4W, W.M.;2520 FEET SOUTH AND 680 FEET WEST FROM NE CORNER, SECTION 9

WELL 2 (LINN 56538) - NESE, SECTION 9, T15S, R4W, W.M.;2670 FEET SOUTH AND 210 FEET WEST FROM NE CORNER, SECTION 9

Place of Use:

SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$   
SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$   
NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$   
NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$   
SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$   
SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$   
SECTION 9

TOWNSHIP 15 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST, W.M.

**14 DAY STOP PROCESSING DEADLINE DATE: Friday, November 6, 2009**

**PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: Tuesday, October 27, 2009**

**30 DAY COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: Thursday, November 26, 2009**

# Mailing List for IR Copies

Application #G-17190

IR Date: October 23, 2009

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**Original mailed to applicant:**

KNIFE RIVER INC., 32260 OLD HWY 34, TANGENT, OR 97389

Copies sent to:

1. WRD - File # G-17190
2. WRD - Water Availability: Ken Stahr

IR, Map, and Fact Sheet Copies sent VIA EMAIL to:

3. WRD -Watermaster # 2 (include Division 33 form)
4. ODFW: (include Division 33 form)
5. DEQ: (include Division 33 form)

IR, Map, and Fact Sheet Copies sent to:

6. Department of Agriculture

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

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

Copies Mailed By: _____ (SUPPORT STAFF) on: _____ (DATE)
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Caseworker: Joel Plahn

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