

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW FOR GROUND WATER APPLICATIONS

TO: Water Rights Section Date December 22, 2009

FROM: Ground Water/Hydrology Section Marc Norton
Reviewer's Name

SUBJECT: Application G- G-17271 Supersedes review of _____
Date of Review(s)

PUBLIC INTEREST PRESUMPTION; GROUNDWATER

OAR 690-310-130 (1) *The Department shall presume that a proposed groundwater use will ensure the preservation of the public welfare, safety and health as described in ORS 537.525. Department staff review ground water applications under OAR 690-310-140 to determine whether the presumption is established. OAR 690-310-140 allows the proposed use be modified or conditioned to meet the presumption criteria. This review is based upon available information and agency policies in place at the time of evaluation.*

A. GENERAL INFORMATION: Applicant's Name: J. Kevin McCullough County: Sherman

A1. Applicant(s) seek(s) 1.56 cfs from 1 well(s) in the John Day Basin,
_____ subbasin Quad Map: Quinton

A2. Proposed use: Irrigation (125.7 acres) Seasonality: March 1 to October 31

A3. Well and aquifer data (attach and number logs for existing wells; mark proposed wells as such under logid):

Well 1	Logid	Applicant's Well #	Proposed Aquifer*	Proposed Rate(cfs)	Location (T/R-S QQ-Q)	Location, metes and bounds, e.g. 2250' N, 1200' E fr NW cor S 36
1	SHER50257	1	CRBG	1.56	02N/18E-18 SW NE	2240' S, 3370' E, fr NW cor S 18
2						
3						
4						
5						

* Alluvium, CRB, Bedrock

Well	Well Elev ft msl	First Water ft bls	SWL ft bls	SWL Date	Well Depth (ft)	Seal Interval (ft)	Casing Intervals (ft)	Liner Intervals (ft)	Perforations Or Screens (ft)	Well Yield (gpm)	Draw Down (ft)	Test Type
1	1470	210	500	8/20/08	674	0 - 280	0 - 280	-3 - 674	580 - 670	400	????	Air

Use data from application for proposed wells.

A4. **Comments:** The well develops water from a water-bearing zone in the Columbia River Basalt Group.

Requested discharge rate is 700 gpm = 1.56 cfs.

A5. ☒ **Provisions of the** _____ Basin rules relative to the development, classification and/or management of ground water hydraulically connected to surface water ☐ are, or ☐ are not, activated by this application. (Not all basin rules contain such provisions.)
Comments: NA

A6. ☐ **Well(s) #** _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, tap(s) an aquifer limited by an administrative restriction.
Name of administrative area: NA
Comments: _____

B. GROUND WATER AVAILABILITY CONSIDERATIONS, OAR 690-310-130, 400-010, 410-0070

B1. **Based upon available data**, I have determined that ground water* for the proposed use:

- a. ☐ is over appropriated, ☐ is not over appropriated, or ☒ **cannot be determined to be** over appropriated during any period of the proposed use. * This finding is limited to the ground water portion of the over-appropriation determination as prescribed in OAR 690-310-130;
- b. ☐ **will not** or ☐ **will** likely be available in the amounts requested without injury to prior water rights. * This finding is limited to the ground water portion of the injury determination as prescribed in OAR 690-310-130;
- c. ☐ **will not** or ☐ **will** likely to be available within the capacity of the ground water resource; or
- d. ☒ **will, if properly conditioned**, avoid injury to existing ground water rights or to the ground water resource:
 - i. ☒ The permit should contain condition #(s) **7B - Interference, 7N - Annual WL, 7P - Well tag + large monitoring and reporting with a flow meter**;
 - ii. ☐ The permit should be conditioned as indicated in item 2 below.
 - iii. ☒ The permit should contain special condition(s) as indicated in item 3 below;

- B2.
- a. ☐ **Condition** to allow ground water production from no deeper than _____ ft. below land surface;
 - b. ☐ **Condition** to allow ground water production from no shallower than _____ ft. below land surface;
 - c. ☐ **Condition** to allow ground water production only from the _____ ground water reservoir between approximately _____ ft. and _____ ft. below land surface;
 - d. ☐ **Well reconstruction** is necessary to accomplish one or more of the above conditions. The problems that are likely to occur with this use and without reconstructing are cited below. Without reconstruction, I recommend withholding issuance of the permit until evidence of well reconstruction is filed with the Department and approved by the Ground Water Section.

Describe injury –as related to water availability– that is likely to occur without well reconstruction (interference w/ senior water rights, not within the capacity of the resource, etc): _____

- B3. **Ground water availability remarks:** The applicant has one well that will produce from water-bearing zones in the Columbia River Basalt Group (CRBG). The CRBG consists of a series of lava flows that range up to several thousand feet thick in the vicinity of the proposed well. Although unconfined ground water occurs near the surface of the basalts, most water occurs in confined aquifers that occupy thin rubble zones (interflow zones) that occur at the contacts between lava flows. The thick interiors of the basalt flows generally have very low porosity and permeability and act as confining beds. This physical geometry generally produces a stack of thin aquifers (interflow zones) separated by thick confining beds (flow interiors). In the area of the proposed well, some of the basalt aquifers are truncated by local stream drainages which have eroded to various levels through the basalt column (see attached map). Because the aquifers are confined (storativityfv is estimated to be 0.0001), pumping impacts will propagate outward at rapid rates and are likely to reach aquifer boundaries (streams, faults, and truncated basalt flow margins) within a few hours. Using aquifer parameters appropriate for the basalts, it can be shown that the cone of depression from a pumped well will produce measurable impacts at a distance of 1 mile within several hours. Therefore, hydraulic interference with nearby wells, springs, and streams will occur rapidly once pumping begins. The presence of local aquifer boundaries will increase the degree of interference with nearby wells that are completed in the same water-bearing zones. Because of the limited size and low storage capacity of the basalt aquifers in the area, overdraft of the aquifer is a possibility as documented in other areas where the DRBG has been developed. Higher production rates may be likely if the wells are completed in multiple aquifers but commingling is not likely to affect the long-term sustainability of the basalt ground-water system because of low overall storage and local aquifer boundaries.

There is no long-term water level data for wells in this area. Therefore, water level monitoring is very important. To aid in the data collection, the following condition is recommended:

Special Condition: The well shall be equipped with a separate water level measurement tube in addition to other methods of measuring the water level such as airlines or transducers. The annual water level measurement required in the permit shall be measured through the measuring tube.

C. GROUND WATER/SURFACE WATER CONSIDERATIONS, OAR 690-09-040**C1. 690-09-040 (1):** Evaluation of aquifer confinement:

Well	Aquifer or Proposed Aquifer	Confined	Unconfined
1	CRBG	☐	☒
		☐	☐
		☐	☐
		☐	☐
		☐	☐

Basis for aquifer confinement evaluation: Ground water level is near the level where it was encountered.

C2. 690-09-040 (2) (3): Evaluation of distance to, and hydraulic connection with, surface water sources. All wells located a horizontal distance less than ¼ mile from a surface water source that produce water from an unconfined aquifer shall be assumed to be hydraulically connected to the surface water source. Include in this table any streams located beyond one mile that are evaluated for PSI.

Well	SW #	Surface Water Name	GW Elev ft msl	SW Elev ft msl	Distance (ft)	Hydraulically Connected?			Potential for Subst. Interfer. Assumed?	
						YES	NO	ASSUMED	YES	NO
1	1	Spring in Biglow Canyon	970	1220	4800	☐	☒	☐	☐	☒
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
						☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Basis for aquifer hydraulic connection evaluation: Shallow aquifer that is probably connected to nearby spring was cased and sealed off during well construction.

The normal pool elevation of Lake Umatilla is 265'

Water Availability Basin the well(s) are located within: JOHN DAY R > COLUMBIA R - AT MOUTH

C3a. 690-09-040 (4): Evaluation of stream impacts for each well that has been determined or assumed to be **hydraulically connected and less than 1 mile** from a surface water source. Limit evaluation to instream rights and minimum stream flows that are pertinent to that surface water source, and not lower SW sources to which the stream under evaluation is tributary. Compare the requested rate against the 1% of 80% *natural* flow for the pertinent Water Availability Basin (WAB). If Q is not distributed by well, use full rate for each well. Any checked ☒ box indicates the well is assumed to have the potential to cause PSI.

Well	SW #	Well < ¼ mile?	Qw > 5 cfs?	Instream Water Right ID	Instream Water Right Q (cfs)	Qw > 1% ISWR?	80% Natural Flow (cfs)	Qw > 1% of 80% Natural Flow?	Interference @ 30 days (%)	Potential for Subst. Interfer. Assumed?
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐
		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐

		☐	☐			☐		☐		☐
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C3b. **690-09-040 (4):** Evaluation of stream impacts by total appropriation for all wells determined or assumed to be **hydraulically connected and less than 1 mile** from a surface water source. **Complete only if Q is distributed among wells.** Otherwise same evaluation and limitations apply as in C3a above.

	SW #		Q _w > 5 cfs?	Instream Water Right ID	Instream Water Right Q (cfs)	Q _w > 1% ISWR?	80% Natural Flow (cfs)	Q _w > 1% of 80% Natural Flow?	Interference @ 30 days (%)	Potential for Subst. Interfer. Assumed?
			☐			☐		☐		☐
			☐			☐		☐		☐
			☐			☐		☐		☐
			☐			☐		☐		☐

Comments: NA

C4a. **690-09-040 (5):** Estimated impacts on **hydraulically connected surface water sources greater than one mile** as a percentage of the proposed pumping rate. Limit evaluation to the effects that will occur up to one year after pumping begins. This table encompasses the considerations required by 09-040 (5)(a), (b), (c) and (d), which are not included on this form. Use additional sheets if calculated flows from more than one WAB are required.

Non-Distributed Wells													
Well	SW#	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Well Q as CFS													
Interference CFS													
Distributed Wells													
Well	SW#	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Well Q as CFS													
Interference CFS													
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Well Q as CFS													
Interference CFS													
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Well Q as CFS													
Interference CFS													
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Well Q as CFS													
Interference CFS													
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Well Q as CFS													
Interference CFS													
(A) = Total Interf.													
(B) = 80 % Nat. Q													
(C) = 1 % Nat. Q													
(D) = (A) > (C)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
(E) = (A / B) x 100		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Basis for impact evaluation:

C5. ☐ **If properly conditioned**, the surface water source(s) can be adequately protected from interference, and/or ground water use under this permit can be regulated if it is found to substantially interfere with surface water:

- i. ☐ The permit should contain condition #(s) _____;
- ii. ☐ The permit should contain special condition(s) as indicated in "Remarks" below;

C6. SW / GW Remarks and Conditions

References Used:

D. WELL CONSTRUCTION, OAR 690-200D1. **Well #:** _____ **Logid:** _____D2. **THE WELL does not meet current well construction standards based upon:**

- a. ☐ review of the well log;
- b. ☐ field inspection by _____;
- c. ☐ report of CWRE _____;
- d. ☐ other: (specify) _____

D3. **THE WELL construction deficiency:**

- a. ☐ constitutes a health threat under Division 200 rules;
- b. ☐ commingles water from more than one ground water reservoir;
- c. ☐ permits the loss of artesian head;
- d. ☐ permits the de-watering of one or more ground water reservoirs;
- e. ☐ other: (specify) _____

D4. **THE WELL construction deficiency is described as follows:** _____

D5. **THE WELL** a. ☐ **was, or** ☐ **was not** constructed according to the standards in effect at the time of original construction or most recent modification.b. ☐ I don't know if it met standards at the time of construction.D6. ☐ **Route to the Enforcement Section.** I recommend withholding issuance of the permit until evidence of well reconstruction is filed with the Department and approved by the Enforcement Section and the Ground Water Section.**THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**D7. ☐ Well construction deficiency has been corrected by the following actions: _____

_____, 200____.

(Enforcement Section Signature)

D8. ☐ **Route to Water Rights Section (attach well reconstruction logs to this page).**

Ground Water Application G-17271, McCullough Sherman County, Quinton Quad

