

**Oregon Water Resources Department  
Water Right Services Division**

**Application for Extension of Time**

In the Matter of the Application for an Extension of Time )  
for Permit G-15145, Water Right Application G-15211 ) PROPOSED FINAL ORDER  
in the name of Threemile Farms LLC )

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**Permit Information**

**Application File G-15211 Permit G-15145**

Basin: 7 – Umatilla / Watermaster District 5

Date of Priority: September 6, 2000

**Authorized Use of Water**

Source of Water: Three drain tiles in Willow Creek Basin within the Willow  
Creek Basin

Purpose of Use: Agricultural use

Maximum Rate: 5.57 Cubic Feet per Second (cfs)

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**This Extension of Time request is being processed in accordance with Oregon  
Administrative Rule Chapter 690, Division 315**

***Please read this Proposed Final Order in its entirety as it contains  
additional conditions not included in the original permit.***

This Proposed Final Order applies only to Permit G-15145, water right Application G-15211.  
A copy of Permit G-15145 is enclosed as Attachment 1.

## Summary of Proposed Final Order for Extension of Time

### The Department proposes to:

- Grant an extension of time to apply water to full beneficial use from October 1, 2006 to October 1, 2018.
- Make the extension subject to certain conditions set forth below.

### ACRONYM QUICK REFERENCE

Department – Oregon Department of Water Resources  
PFO – Proposed Final Order

#### Units of Measure

cfs – cubic feet per second  
gpm – gallons per minute

### AUTHORITY

**Generally, see ORS 537.630 and OAR Chapter 690 Division 315.**

**ORS 537.630(1)** provide in pertinent part that the Oregon Water Resources Department (Department) may, for good cause shown, order an extension of time within which: irrigation or other works shall be completed; the well or other means of developing and securing ground water shall be completed; or the right perfected. In determining the extension, the Department shall give due weight to the considerations described under ORS 539.010(5) and to whether other governmental requirements relating to the project have significantly delayed completion of construction or perfection of the right.

**ORS 539.010(5)** provides in pertinent part that the Water Resources Director, for good cause shown, may extend the time within which the full amount of the water appropriated shall be applied to a beneficial use. This statute instructs the Director to consider: the cost of the appropriation and application of the water to a beneficial purpose; the good faith of the appropriator; the market for water or power to be supplied; the present demands therefore; and the income or use that may be required to provide fair and reasonable returns upon the investment.

**OAR 690-315-0040** provides in pertinent part that the Water Resources Department shall make findings to determine if an extension of time may be approved to complete construction and/or apply water to full beneficial use.

**OAR 690-315-0050(5)** states that extension orders may include, but are not limited to, any condition or provision needed to: ensure future diligence; mitigate the effects of the subsequent development on competing demands on the resource; and periodically document the continued need for the permit.

OAR 690-315-0050(6) requires the Department, for extensions exceeding five years, to establish checkpoints to determine if diligence is being exercised in the development and perfection of the water use permit. Intervals between checkpoints will not exceed five year periods.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

### Background

1. Permit G-15145 was granted by the Department on August 8, 2002. The permit authorizes the use of up to 5.57 cfs of water from three drain tiles in Willow Creek Basin for agricultural use. The permit specified complete application of water was to be made on or before October 1, 2006.
2. The permit holder submitted an "Application for Extension of Time" to the Department on February 24, 2012 requesting the time to apply water to full beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit G-15145 be extended from October 1, 2006 to October 1, 2018. This is the first permit extension requested for Permit G-15145.
3. Notification of the Application for Extension of Time for Permit G-15145 was published in the Department's Public Notice dated March 6, 2012. No public comments were received regarding the extension application.

### Review Criteria [OAR 690-315-0040]

*The time limits to complete construction and/or apply water to full beneficial use may be extended if the Department finds that the permit holder has met the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040. This determination shall consider the applicable requirements of ORS 537.230<sup>1</sup>, 537.248<sup>2</sup>, 537.630<sup>3</sup> and/or 539.010(5)<sup>4</sup>.*

### Complete Extension of Time Application [OAR 690-315-0040(1)(a)]

4. On February 24, 2012, the Department received a completed Application for Extension of Time and the fee specified in ORS 536.050 from the permit holder.

### Start of Construction [OAR 690-315-0040(1)(b) and 690-315-0040(5)]

5. Senate Bill 300 (1999 legislation) eliminated the requirement that holders of new surface water and ground water permits start construction on water projects within one year after the Department issues the permit. Senate Bill 300 applies to any application for a permit filed after October 23, 1999.

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<sup>1</sup>ORS 537.230 applies to surface water permits only.

<sup>2</sup>ORS 537.248 applies to reservoir permits only.

<sup>3</sup>ORS 537.630 applies to ground water permits only.

<sup>4</sup>ORS 539.010(5) applies to surface water and ground water permits.

**Duration of Extension [OAR 690-315-0040(1)(c)]**

*Under OAR 690-315-0040(1)(c), in order to approve an extension of time for water use permits the Department must find that the time requested is reasonable and the applicant can complete the project within the time requested.*

6. As of February 24, 2012, the remaining work to be completed consists of completing construction of the water system and applying water to full beneficial use.
7. Given the amount of development left to occur, the Department has determined that the permit holder's request to have until October 1, 2018, to accomplish the application of water to beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit G-15145 is both reasonable and necessary.

**Good Cause [OAR 690-315-0040(1)(d)]**

*The Department's determination of good cause shall consider the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040(2).*

**Reasonable Diligence of the Appropriator [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(a)]**

*The Department's determination of reasonable diligence shall consider the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040(3)(a-d). In accordance with OAR 690-315-0040(3), the Department shall consider, but is not limited to, the following factors when determining whether the applicant has demonstrated reasonable diligence in previous performance under the permit:*

**Amount of Construction [OAR 690-315-0040(3)(a)]**

8. Work was accomplished within the time allowed in the permit or previous extension as follows:
  - a. Construction of the well was completed prior to October 1, 2006.
  - b. Work was completed (specified in the Application for an Extension of Time) during the original development time frame under Permit G-15145.
  - c. From October 1, 2006 the permit holder has installed flow meters required under Permit G-15145.

**Beneficial Use of Water [OAR 690-315-0040(3)(b)]**

9. The following beneficial use of water was made during the permit or previous extension time limits:
  - a. Since the issuance of Permit G-15145 on August 8, 2002, a maximum rate of 3 cfs of water has been appropriated, being 1.5 cfs each from Drain Tile #2 and Drain Tile #3 for agricultural use.

**Compliance with Conditions [OAR 690-315-0040(3)(c)]**

10. The water right permit holder's conformance with the permit or previous extension conditions.

- a. The Department has considered the permit holder's compliance with conditions, and has identified the following concerns: (1) the record does not show that flow meters or other suitable measuring devices were installed by October 1, 1996, and (2) annual reports of the amount of water used each month have not been received by the Department.
- b. Failure to comply with permit conditions constitutes illegal use of water. The use of water under this permit, therefore, has not yet been demonstrated. In order to legally perfect the use of water under this permit, the permit holder must demonstrate that all conditions of the permit have been satisfied.

Financial Investments [OAR 690-315-0040(3)(d)]

11. Financial investments made toward developing the beneficial water use.
  - a. As of February 24, 2012, the permit holder has invested approximately \$74,610,520, which is approximately 96 percent of the total projected cost for complete development of this project. The permit holder anticipates an additional \$2,653,000 investment is needed for the completion of this project.

Cost to Appropriate and Apply Water to a Beneficial Purpose [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(b)]

12. As of February 24, 2012, the permit holder has invested approximately \$74,610,520 which is approximately 96 percent of the total projected cost for complete development of this project. The permit holder anticipates an additional \$2,653,000 investment is needed for the completion of this project.

Good Faith of the Appropriator [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(c)]

13. The Department has found good faith of the appropriator under Permit G-15145.

The Market and Present Demands for Water [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(d-e)]

*The Department's determinations of market and present demand for water or power to be supplied shall consider the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040(4)(a-f). In accordance with OAR 690-315-0040(4), the Department shall consider, but is not limited to, the following factors when determining the market and the present demand for water or power to be supplied:*

14. The amount of water available to satisfy other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows; special water use designations established since permit issuance, including but not limited to state scenic waterways, federal wild and scenic rivers, serious water management problem areas or water quality limited sources established under 33 U.S.C. 1313(d); or the habitat needs of sensitive, threatened or endangered species, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife [OAR 690-315-0040(4)(a-c)].
  - a. The amount of water available to satisfy other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows was determined at the time of issuance of Permit G-15145;

furthermore, water availability for other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows after the permit was issued is determined at such time that such application for a new water right is submitted. The points of appropriation for Permit G-15145, located within the Willow Creek Basin, are not located within a limited or critical ground water area. Willow Creek is not located within or above any state or federal scenic waterway, however it is located within an area ranked “moderate” for stream flow restoration needs as determined by the Department in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and is not located within a Sensitive, Threatened or Endangered Fish Species Area as identified by the Department in consultation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Willow Creek is not listed by the Department of Environmental Quality as a water quality limited stream.

15. Economic investment in the project to date [OAR 690-315-0040(4)(d)].
  - a. As of February 24, 2012, the permit holder has invested approximately \$74,610,520.
16. Other economic interests dependent on completion of the project [OAR 690-315-0040(4)(e)].
  - a. None have been identified.
17. Other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demand for water and power [OAR 690-315-0040(4)(f)].
  - a. None have been identified.
18. OAR 690-315-0050(6) requires the Department to place a checkpoint condition on this extension of time in order to ensure diligence is exercised in the development and perfection of the water use permit. A “Checkpoint Condition” is specified under Item 1 of the “Conditions” section of this PFO to meet this condition.

**Fair Return Upon Investment [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(f)]**

19. Use and income from the permitted water development results in reasonable returns upon the investment made to date.

**Other Governmental Requirements [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(g)]**

20. Delay in the development of this project was not caused by any other governmental requirements.

**Unforeseen Events [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(h)]**

21. None have been identified.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The applicant is entitled to apply for an extension of time to complete construction and/or completely apply water to the full beneficial use pursuant to ORS 537.630(1).
2. The applicant has submitted a complete extension application form and the fee specified in ORS 536.050, as required by OAR 690-315-0040(1)(a).
3. The applicant complied with begin actual construction timeline requirements pursuant to ORS 537.630 as required by OAR 690-315-0040(1)(b) and OAR 690-315-0040(5).
4. Completion of construction and full application of water to beneficial use can be accomplished by October 1, 2018<sup>5</sup>, as required by OAR 690-315-0040(1)(c).
5. The Department has considered the reasonable diligence and good faith of the appropriator, the cost to appropriate and apply water to a beneficial purpose, the market and present demands for water to be supplied, the financial investment made and fair and reasonable return upon the investment, the requirements of other governmental agencies, and unforeseen events over which the permit holder had no control, whether denial of the extension will result in undue hardship to the applicant and whether there are no other reasonable alternatives for meeting water use needs, any other factors relevant to a determination of good cause, and has determined that the applicant has shown that good cause exists for an extension of time to apply water to full beneficial use pursuant to OAR 690-315-0040(1)(d).
6. As required by OAR 690-315-0050(6) and as described in Finding 18 above, the Department has established, as specified in the "Conditions" section of this PFO (Item 1, progress checkpoints in order to ensure future diligence is exercised in the development and perfection of Permit G-15145.

### Proposed Order

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Department proposes to issue an order to:

Extend the time to apply water to beneficial use under Permit G-15145 from October 1, 2006 to October 1, 2018.

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<sup>5</sup>Pursuant to ORS 537.630(4), upon the completion of beneficial use of water allowed under the permit, the permittee shall hire a certified water rights examiner to survey the appropriation. Within one year after the complete application of water to a beneficial use (or by the date allowed for the complete application of water to a beneficial use), the permittee shall submit a map of the survey and a new or revised claim of beneficial use as deemed appropriate by the Department.

Subject to the following condition:

## CONDITION

1. **Checkpoint Condition**

The permit holder must submit a completed Progress Report Form to the Department by **October 1, 2017**. *A form will be enclosed with your Final Order.*

- (a) At each checkpoint, the permit holder shall submit and the Department shall review evidence of the permit holder's diligence towards completion of the project and compliance with terms and conditions of the permit and extension. If, after this review, the Department determines the permit holder has not been diligent in developing and perfecting the water use permit, or complied with all terms and conditions, the Department shall modify or further condition the permit or extension to ensure future compliance, or begin cancellation proceedings on the undeveloped portion of the permit pursuant to ORS 537.260 or 537.410, or require submission of a final proof survey pursuant to ORS 537.250;
- (b) The Department shall provide notice of receipt of progress reports in its weekly notice and shall allow a 30 day comment period for each report. The Department shall provide notice of its determination to anyone who submitted comments.

DATED: June 12, 2012

  
Dwight French, Water Right Services  
Administrator

*If you have any questions,  
please check the information  
box on the last page for the  
appropriate names and  
phone numbers.*

### **Proposed Final Order Hearing Rights**

- 1. Under the provisions of OAR 690-315-0100(1) and 690-315-0060, the applicant or any other person adversely affected or aggrieved by the proposed final order may submit a written protest to the proposed final order. The written protest must be received by the Water Resources Department no later than **July 27, 2012**, being 45 days from the date of publication of the proposed final order in the Department's weekly notice.
- 2. A written protest shall include:
  - a. The name, address and telephone number of the petitioner;
  - b. A description of the petitioner's interest in the proposed final order and if the protestant claims to represent the public interest, a precise statement of the public interest represented;



