

Oregon Water Resources Department
Water Right Services Division

PROPOSED FINAL ORDER

In the Matter of the Application for an Extension of Time for Permit R-12928, Water Right Application R-69708, in the name of Windhurst Road Water Corporation.

Permit Information

Application:	R-69708
Permit:	R-12928
Basin:	17 – South Coast / Watermaster District 19
Date of Priority:	September 6, 1988, for 100 acre-feet and June 1, 1994, for 514 acre-feet (AF)
Source of Water:	Bill Creek, a tributary of Bear Creek
Purpose of Use:	Stored water to be appropriated under Permit S-53703 for cranberry operations
Maximum Volume:	614.0 acre-feet (AF) each year, November 1 through May 31

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

In summary, the Department proposes to:

- Grant an extension of time to apply water to full beneficial use from October 1, 2005 2014 to October 30, 2019.¹

This Extension of Time request is being processed in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute 537.230 and 539.010(5), and Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 690, Division 315

¹ Pursuant to ORS 537.230(4), upon the completion of beneficial use of water allowed under the permit, the permit holder 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 permit holder shall submit a map of the survey and the claim of beneficial use.

ACRONYM QUICK REFERENCE

Department – Oregon Water Resources Department
PFO – Proposed Final Order
cfs – cubic feet per second
gpm – gallons per minute
AF – acre-feet

AUTHORITY

Generally, see ORS 537.230 and OAR Chapter 690 Division 315.

ORS 537.230(3) provides 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 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.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Background

1. Permit R-12928 was granted by the Department on October 10, 2000. The permit authorizes the storage of up to 614.0 AF of water, a cumulative maximum divided between 23 reservoirs diverted from Bill Creek, a tributary of Bear Creek, to be appropriated under Permit S-53703 for cranberry operations. The permit specified actual construction was to begin by October 10, 2001 and complete application of water was to be made on or before October 1, 2005.
2. A prior permit extension has been granted for Permit R-12928. The most recent extension resulted in the completion date for full application of water being extended to October 1, 2014.
3. The permit holder submitted an "Application for Extension of Time" to the Department

on September 26, 2014, requesting both the time to complete construction of the water system and the time to apply water to full beneficial use under the terms of Permit R-12928 be extended from October 1, 2014 to October 30, 2019. However, since the permit does not contain a specific deadline for completing construction, the Department needs to only consider an extension of the time to apply water to full beneficial use.

4. Notification of the Application for Extension of Time for Permit R-12928 was published in the Department's Public Notice dated October 7, 2014. 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 537.230², 537.248³ and/or 539.010(5)⁴.

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

5. On September 26, 2014, 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)]

6. Actual construction of the water system began prior to the October 10, 2001 deadline specified in the permit. In 1960 the Manicke reservoir #4 was constructed.

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.

7. As of September 26, 2014, the remaining work to be completed consists of installing staff gages in Scherer and Haga, enlarge Scherer #1 and #2, completing Bee Sting reservoir, completing Richert #1 and #2, installing pumps and plumbing to Richert #1 and #2, completing Manicke and applying water to full beneficial use.
8. Given the amount of development left to occur, the Department has determined that the permit holder's request to have until October 30, 2019, to accomplish the application of water to beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit R-12928 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).

²ORS 537.230 applies to surface water permits only.

³ORS 537.248 applies to reservoir permits only.

⁴ORS 539.010(5) applies to surface water and ground water permits.

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)]

9. Work was accomplished within the time allowed in the permit or previous extension as follows:
 - a. Construction of the water system began prior to the October 10, 2001 deadline specified in the permit. In 1960 Manicke reservoir was constructed.
 - b. Work was completed during the original development time frame under Permit R-12928. In 2001 the permit holder installed a pump, electrical and valves for Windhurst reservoir and partial excavation of Haga reservoir #1
 - d. During the most recent extension period, being from October 1, 2005, to October 1, 2014, the following was accomplished:
 - Manicke completed 50% of extension to all ponds;
 - Scherer completed reservoir #7 and purchased staff gages;
 - Haga purchased staff gages;
 - Richert worked on construction of reservoir #1 and #2, purchased pumps and plumbing;
 - Final engineering certification was completed.

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

10. The following beneficial use was made of the water during the permit or previous extension time limits:
 - a. Since the issuance of Permit R-12928 on October 10, 2000, the permit holder has stored a total of 614 AF of water in 23 reservoirs that was appropriated under permit S-53703 for cranberry operation.

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

11. 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) annual reports of the amount of water used each month have not been received by the Department, (2) not all staff gages are installed.

- b. In order to legally perfect the storage of water under this permit, the permit holder must demonstrate that all conditions of the permit have been satisfied.

Financial Investments to appropriate and Apply Water to a Beneficial Purpose [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(b),(3)(d),(4)(d)]

12. As of September 26, 2014, the permit holder has invested approximately \$890,025, which is about 97 percent of the total projected cost for complete development of this project. The permit holder anticipates an additional \$24,000 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 R-12928.

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 R-12928; furthermore, water availability for other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows after the permit was issued is determined when an application for a new water right is submitted. The points of diversion are located on Bill Creek, a tributary of Bear Creek, and are not located within a Withdrawn Area. Bill Creek, a tributary of Bear Creek is not located within or above a state or federal scenic waterway, however, it is located within an area ranked "highest" for stream flow restoration needs as determined by the Department in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and is located within a Sensitive, Threatened or Endangered Fish Species Area as identified by the Department in consultation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The points of diversion are not in a location listed by the Department of Environmental Quality as a water quality limited stream.
15. Other economic interests dependent on completion of the project [OAR 690-315-0040(4)(e)].

- a. None have been identified.
16. 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.

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

17. Use and income from the permitted water development will likely result in reasonable returns upon the investment made to date.

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

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

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

19. Unforeseen events extended the length of time needed to fully develop and perfect Permit R-12928, in that one of the main partners of Windhurst Road Watering Corporation passed away in 2014.

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 537.230(3).
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 537.230 as required by OAR 690-315-0040(1)(b) and OAR 690-315-0040(5).
4. Full application of water to beneficial use can be accomplished by October 30, 2019⁵, 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

⁵Pursuant to ORS 537.230(3), 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.


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).

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 R-12928 from October 1, 2014 to October 30, 2019.

DATED: November 18, 2014


Dwight W. French, Administrator
Water Right Services Division

*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 **January 2, 2015**, 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;

