

**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-17038, Water Right Application G-16997, in            )     PROPOSED FINAL ORDER  
the name of Steven E. and Kristi L. Rickman, and Northwest        )  
Farm Credit Services, FLCA

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**Permit Information**

Application:	G-16997
Permit:	G-17038
Basin:	12 – Malheur Lake / Watermaster District 10
Date of Priority:	January 28, 2008
Source of Water:	Well 1, 2, and 3 in Poison Creek Slough Basin
Purpose of Use:	Irrigation use on 209.4 acres
Maximum Rate:	2.62 cubic feet per second (cfs), being no more than 0.53 cfs from Well 1 and 2.45 cfs from Well 2

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***Please read this Proposed Final Order in its entirety.***

*In Summary, the Department proposes to:*

- Grant an extension of time to complete construction of the water system from March 11, 2015 to October 1, 2020.
- Grant an extension of time to apply water to full beneficial use from March 11, 2015 to October 1, 2020<sup>1</sup>.

This Extension of Time request is being processed in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute 537.630 and 539.010(5), and Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 690, Division 315.

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<sup>1</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.

## **ACRONYM QUICK REFERENCE**

Department – Oregon Department of Water Resources  
PFO – Proposed Final Order  
cfs – cubic feet per second  
gpm – gallons per minute  
bls – Below land surface

## **AUTHORITY**

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

**ORS 537.630(1)** provides in pertinent part that the Oregon Water Resources 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.

## **FINDINGS OF FACT**

### *Background*

1. Permit G-16654 was issued by the Department on March 11, 2010. The permit authorizes the use of up to 2.62 cfs of water, being no more than 0.53 cfs from Well 1 and 2.45 cfs from Well 2 in Poison Creek Slough Basin for irrigation use on 209.4 acres. The permit specified construction of the water system was to be completed by March 11, 2015, and complete application of water was to be made on or before March 11, 2015.
2. On February 26, 2012, the Department approved Permit Amendment T-11411 (Special Order Volume 89, Page 62) authorizing a change in the points of appropriation for Well 1 and Well 2 and an additional point of appropriation, Well 2. A superseding permit G-16918 was issued to describe the changes.

3. On April 16, 2013 the Department issued superseding Permit G-17038 correcting a scrivener's error in the location description of Well 1 and Well 2 amended by Special Order Volume 89, Page 480.
4. On June 27, 2013 an assignment from Steve Rickman to Northwest Farm Credit Services, FLCA and Steven E. Rickman and Kristi L. Rickman was recorded in the records of the Water Resources Department.
5. The permit holder, Steve Rickman, submitted an "Application for Extension of Time" to the Department on February 5, 2016, requesting both the time to complete construction of the water system and the time to apply water to full beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit G-17038 be extended from March 11, 2015 to October 1, 2020. This is the first permit extension requested for Permit G-17038.
6. Notification of the Application for Extension of Time for Permit G-17038 was published in the Department's Public Notice dated March 22, 2016. 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>2</sup>, 537.248<sup>3</sup>, 537.630<sup>4</sup> and/or 539.010(5)<sup>5</sup>.*

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

7. On February 5, 2016, 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)]**

8. Construction of the well began within 5 years of permit issuance, as specified in the permit. The permit holder states, construction began on July 1, 2009.

According to the well log received by the Department on August 6, 2009, Well 1 (HARN 51617) construction began June 11, 2009. The Department has determined that the prosecution of the construction of the well began prior to March 11, 2015.

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<sup>2</sup>ORS 537.230 applies to surface water permits only.

<sup>3</sup>ORS 537.248 applies to reservoir permits only.

<sup>4</sup>ORS 537.630 applies to ground water permits only.

<sup>5</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.*

9. As of February 5, 2016, the permit holder states the remaining work to be completed consists of gaining approval from the Department to develop an additional point of appropriation; meeting all permit conditions; completing construction of the water system; and applying water to full beneficial use.

Given the amount of development left to occur, the Department has determined that the permit holder's request to have until October 1, 2020, to complete construction of the water system and to accomplish the application of water to beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit G-17038 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)]**

10. The application states, work was accomplished within the time allowed in the permit or previous extension as follows:
  - a. Construction of the well was completed prior to March 11, 2015. Construction began on Well 1 (HARN 51617) on June 11, 2009 and was completed on July 22, 2009, which is prior to permit issuance.
  - b. Work was completed during the original development time frame under Permit G-17038. The permit holder developed Well 3 (HARN 51887) in 2012 and Well 2 (HARN 51917) in 2013. The application also states that pumps, meters and a center pivot was installed.

The Department has determined that work has been accomplished within the time allowed in the permit, which provides evidence of good cause and reasonable diligence towards the complete application of water to a beneficial use.

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

11. The application states a total maximum rate of 975 gpm (2.17 cfs) of water, being 200 gpm (0.45 cfs) from Well 1, 700 gpm (1.5 cfs) from Well 2 and 75 gpm (0.17 cfs) from Well 3 has been appropriated from the wells for irrigation of 155.0 acres
12. Beneficial use of water has not yet been demonstrated under this permit because not all permit conditions were satisfied by March 11, 2015.

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

13. The permit holder has installed totalizing flow meters on each well at the time the pump was installed, submitted the annual water use records, and submitted the static water level measurements required under Permit G-17038.
14. The Department has considered the permit holder's compliance with conditions, and has identified the following concern: (1) the record does not show that Well 2 (HARN 51917) or Well 3 (HARN 51887) are continuously cased or continuously seal to a minimum depth of 100 feet bgs.

The Department has determined that this extension will allow Well 2 (HARN 51917) and Well 3 (HARN 51887) to be continuously cased or continuously seal to a minimum depth of 100 feet bgs after March 11, 2015 to satisfy compliance of the condition of "The wells shall be continuously cased and continuously seal to a minimum depth of 100 feet below land surface", in an effort to make proof of beneficial use of the water as required by Permit G-17038

Failure to comply with permit conditions constitutes illegal use of water. Beneficial 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 to Appropriate and Apply Water to a Beneficial Purpose [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(b),(3)(d),(4)(d)]***

15. The application states the permit holder has invested about \$426,000, which is approximately 71 percent of the total projected cost for complete development of this project. The permit holder anticipates an additional \$166,000 investment is needed for the completion of this project.

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

16. The Department has found good faith of the appropriator under Permit G-17038.

***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:*

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)].

17. 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-17038; 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 appropriation for Permit G-17038, located within the Poison Creek Slough Basin, are not located within a limited or critical ground water area. Poison Creek Slough is not located within or above any state or federal scenic waterway, however, it is located within an area ranked "High" 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 appropriation are not in an area listed by the Department of Environmental Quality as a water quality limited stream.

***Other economic interests dependent on completion of the project [OAR 690-315-0040(4)(e)].***

18. None have been identified.

***Other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demand for water and power [OAR 690-315-0040(4)(f)].***

19. None have been identified.

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

20. 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)]***

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

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

22. 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 construction timeline requirements pursuant to ORS 537.630 as required by OAR 690-315-0040(1)(b) and OAR 690-315-0040(5).
4. Based on Finding of Facts 8 through 16, completion of construction and full application of water to beneficial use can be accomplished by October 1, 2020, 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 complete construction and apply water to full beneficial use pursuant to OAR 690-315-0040(1)(d).

**Continued on the following page**

## 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 complete construction of the water system under Permit G-17038 from March 11, 2015 to October 1, 2020.

Extend the time to apply water to beneficial use under Permit G-17038 from March 11, 2015 to October 1, 2020.

DATED: May 31, 2016



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 **July 15, 2016**, 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;
  - c. A detailed description of how the action proposed in the proposed final order would adversely affect or aggrieve the petitioner's interest;
  - d. A detailed description of how the proposed final order is in error or deficient and how to correct the alleged error or deficiency;



