

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

**PROPOSED FINAL ORDER**

In the Matter of the Application for an Extension of Time for Permit G-16935 (modified by Permit Amendment T-9601), Water Right Application G-13264, in the name of Port of Morrow

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Permit Information

Application:	G-13264
Permit:	G-16935
Basin:	7 – Umatilla / Watermaster District 5
Date of Priority:	January 22, 1993
Source of Water:	Wells 4A (MORR 679) and 5A (MORR 678), Port Well #6 (MORR 50474), Port Well #7 (MORR 50473) within the Umatilla River Basin
Purpose of Use:	Irrigation of 118.8 Acres, Supplemental Irrigation of 851.0 Acres, and Industrial Use
Maximum Rate:	15.34 cubic feet per second (cfs), Being 9.77 cfs for Irrigation, and 5.57 cfs for Industrial Use

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***\*\*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 complete construction of the water system from October 1, 2007 to October 1, 2018.
- Grant an extension of time to apply water to full beneficial use from October 1, 2008 to October 1, 2018<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

## **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-12729 was granted by the Department on September 11, 1996. The permit authorizes the use of up to 15.34 cfs of water, being 9.8 cfs for irrigation, and 5.57 cfs for industrial use from Well 4A (MORR 679), Well 5A (MORR 678), Port Well #6 (MORR 50474), and Port Well #7 (MORR 50473) within the Umatilla River Basin for irrigation of 118.8 acres, supplemental irrigation of 1090.38 acres, and industrial use. The permit specified actual construction of the wells was to begin by September 11, 1997, construction of the water system was to be completed by October 1, 1998, and complete application of water was to be made on or before October 1, 1999.
2. One prior permit extension has been granted for Permit G-12729. The most recent extension request resulted in the completion date for construction being extended from

October 1, 1998 to October 1, 2007 and full application of water being extended from October 1, 1999 to October 1, 2008.

3. On November 29, 2004, the Department approved Permit Amendment T-9601 (Special Order Volume 62, Page 236) authorizing to change the place of use under Permit G-12729 (modified by Permit Amendment T-9601) from supplemental irrigation of 1090.38 acres to supplemental irrigation of 851.0 acres, and from 9.8 cfs for irrigation to 9.77 cfs for irrigation. Permit G-12729 (modified by Permit Amendment T-9601) superseded by Permit G-16935.
4. The permit holder, Port of Morrow, submitted an "Application for Extension of Time" to the Department on February 27, 2015, 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-16935 be extended from October 1, 1999 or 2008 to October 1, 2018.
5. Notification of the Application for Extension of Time for Permit G-16935 was published in the Department's Public Notice dated March 17, 2015. 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)]**

6. On February 27, 2015, 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)]**

7. Actual construction of the wells began prior to the September 11, 1997 deadline specified in the permit. Well 4A (MORR 679) started construction March 16, 1987 and completed construction April 14, 1987, Well 5A (MORR 678) started construction April 15, 1987 and completed construction April 29, 1987.

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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.*

8. As of February 27, 2015, the remaining work to be completed consists of gaining authorization for additional Points of Appropriation; completing construction of the water system; and applying water to full beneficial use.
9. 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 complete construction of the water system and to accomplish the application of water to beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit G-16935 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. Work was accomplished within the time allowed in the permit or previous extension as follows:
  - a. Actual construction of the wells and water system began prior to the September 11, 1997 deadline specified in the permit. Well 4A (MORR 679) started construction March 16, 1987 and completed construction April 14, 1987, Well 5A (MORR 678) started construction April 15, 1987 and completed construction April 29, 1987. January 1, 1997, the permit holder performed irrigation development and pipeline work. April 1, 1997, the permit holder tied the wells to the water system irrigation development.
  - b. Since October 1, 1998, the permit holder has developed Port Well #6 (MORR 50474) which started construction December 6, 1998 and completed construction February 11, 1999, and Port Well #7 (MORR 50473) which started construction December 14, 1998 and completed construction February 9, 1999.

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

11. According to the water user a maximum rate of 9.95 cfs out of the 15.34 cfs of water allowed under the permit has been appropriated from the wells.
12. Delay of full beneficial use of water under Permit G-16935 was due, in part, to insufficient yield of water from permitted Well 4A (MORR 678) and Well 5A (MORR 679). The permit holder needs more time in which to gain approval for the construction of an additional point of appropriation to obtain the full quantity of water allowed under the permit.

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

13. 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. The Department has not received annual reports of the amount of water used since 2001.

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)]*

14. As of February 27, 2015, the permit holder invested approximately \$500,000, which is approximately 98 percent of the total projected cost for complete development of this project. The permit holder anticipates an additional \$7,000 investment is needed for the completion of this project.

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

15. The Department has found good faith of the appropriator under Permit G-16935.

*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:*

16. 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)].

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-16935; 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-16935, located within the Umatilla River Basin, are not located within a limited or critical ground water area. Umatilla River is not located within or above any state or federal scenic waterway, however, it is located within an area ranked "low" 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)].*

17. 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)].*

18. None have been identified.

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

19. 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)]*

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. Unforeseen events extended the length of time needed to fully develop and perfect Permit G-16935, in that the permit holders were faced with an insufficient yield of water from permitted Well 4A (MORR 678) and Well 5A (MORR 679) which have either failed or are failing to the point they can no longer supply some or all of the allowable rate for Permit G-16935. The insufficient yield of water restricted their ability to complete development of the project in a timely manner.

## **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, 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).

### 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-16935 from October 1, 2007 to October 1, 2018.

Extend the time to apply water to beneficial use under Permit G-16935 from October 1, 2008 to October 1, 2018.

DATED: April 21, 2015

  
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.*

