

ACRONYM QUICK REFERENCE

Department – Oregon Department of Water Resources

Application – Application for Extension of Time

PFO – Proposed Final Order

cfs – cubic feet per second

POA – point of appropriation

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 groundwater 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(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. On December 10, 2009, Permit G-16621 was issued by the Department. The permit authorizes the use of up to 2.0 cfs of water from Well 1 and Well 2 in Fish Creek Basin for irrigation use on 160.0 acres. The permit specified completion of construction application of water shall be made within five years of the date of permit issuance, being December 10, 2014.

2. On October 14, 2016 the permit holder, Danny and Laurita Cron, submitted an “Application for Extension of Time” to the Department , 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-16621 be extended from December 10, 2014 to October 1, 2022. This is the first permit extension requested for Permit G-16621.
3. Notification of the Application for Extension of Time for Permit G-16621 was published in the Department’s Public Notice dated October 18, 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 537.230², 537.248³, 537.630⁴ and/or 539.010(5)⁵.

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

4. On October 14, 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)]

5. Construction of the well began prior to December 10, 2014, as specified in the permit as being the date to complete construction and apply water to full beneficial use. The permit holder states, construction of Well #1 (LAKE 52323) began July 21, 2011.

According to the well log received by the Department on October 12, 2012, construction of Well #1 (LAKE 52323) began August 9, 2011. The Department has determined that the prosecution of the construction of the well began prior to December 10, 2014.

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 October 14, 2016, the Application states the remaining work to be completed consists of completing construction of the water system, including re-evaluation of Well #1 (LAKE 52323) as drilled, including performing a bail out and pump flow test, gaining approval of a Permit Amendment to change the point of appropriation (POA) if

²ORS 537.230 applies to surface water permits only.

³ORS 537.248 applies to reservoir permits only.

⁴ORS 537.630 applies to groundwater permits only.

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

needed, constructing Well 2, installation of mainline, pivot, and wheel lines; meeting all permit conditions, including installation of a totalizing flow meter at each point of appropriation, and submittal of annual water use reporting; and applying water to full beneficial use on 160.0 acres.

Given the amount of development left to occur, the Department has determined that the permit holder's request to have until October 1, 2022, 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-16621 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)]

7. The Application states, work was accomplished within the time allowed in the permit or previous extension as follows:
 - a. Work was completed during the original development time frame under Permit G-16621. Construction of Well #1 (LAKE 52323) began August 9, 2011 and was completed August 11, 2011.
 - b. No other work pertaining to Permit G-16621 has been accomplished since August 11, 2011.

The Application provides evidence of progress of physical work made towards completion of the water system, enough to qualify as the minimum necessary for the Department to find good cause and reasonable diligence towards complete application of water to a beneficial use.

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

8. The Application states no water has been appropriated from Well #1 (LAKE 52323) for irrigation.
9. Beneficial use of water has not yet been demonstrated under this permit because not all permit conditions were satisfied by December 10, 2014.

10. According to the permit holder, delay of full beneficial use of water under Permit G-16621 was due, in part, to the development of the water delivery system being put on hold. Well #1 (LAKE 52323) was drilled and found to provide an insufficient amount of water; the well driller recommended not drilling Well #2. A drought hit in 2014 and 2015, so the permit holder had to concentrate on survival of the ranch business. The permit holder needs more time in which to re-evaluate the current status of Well #1 (LAKE 52323), and if necessary, gain approval from the Department for a change in the point of appropriation to obtain the full quantity of water allowed under the permit.

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

11. The Department has considered the permit holder's compliance with conditions, and has identified the following concerns: (1) the record does not show that a totalizing flow meter has been installed at each well; and (2) the required annual reports of the amount of water used each month have not been received by the Department. The Department recognizes that it is the intent of the permit holder to comply with all permit conditions at the time the conditions become applicable.

The Department has determined that this extension will allow; 1) installation of a totalizing flow meter to satisfy compliance of the condition of "Before water use may begin under this permit, the permittee shall install a totalizing flow meter at each point of appropriation," 2) submittal of annual water use reports to satisfy compliance of the condition of "The permittee shall keep a complete record of the amount of water used each month, and shall submit a report which includes the recorded water use measurements to the Department annually or more frequently as may be required by the Director," and 3) to complete construction, obtain the full rate of water allowed under the permit, and to apply the water to full beneficial use on 160.0 acres, in an effort to make proof of beneficial use of the water as required by Permit G-16621.

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)]

12. The Application states the permit holder has invested about \$30,645, which is approximately 13 percent of the total projected cost for complete development of this project. The permit holder anticipates an additional \$200,000 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-16621.

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)].

14. A review of 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-16621; 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.
15. During a current review of Permit G-16621, the Department determined the following:
 - a. The points of appropriation for Permit G-16621, located within the Fish Creek Basin, are not located within a limited or critical groundwater area.
 - b. Fish Creek is not located within or above any state or federal scenic waterway.
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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)].

16. No other economic interests 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)].

17. No other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demand for water and power have been identified.
18. OAR 690-315-0050(6) requires 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 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. According to the permit holder, unforeseen events extended the length of time needed to fully develop and perfect Permit G-16621, in that Well #1 (LAKE 52323) did not produce a sufficient amount of water to apply to beneficial use.

Denial of the Extension Will Result in Undue Hardship [OAR 690-315-0040(2)(i)]

22. The Application did not state if a denial of the extension would result in undue hardship.

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 the construction timeline requirements to begin construction as required by ORS 537.630, OAR 690-315-0040(1)(b) and OAR 690-315-0040(5).
4. Based on Finding of Facts 5 through 13, completion of construction and full application of water to beneficial use can be accomplished by October 1, 2022, 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).

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-16621.

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-16621 from December 10, 2014 to October 1, 2022.

Extend the time to apply water to beneficial use under Permit G-16621 from December 10, 2014 to October 1, 2022.

Subject to the following conditions:

CONDITIONS

1. Checkpoint Condition

The permit holder must submit a completed Progress Report Form to the Department by **October 1, 2021**. ***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: November 22, 2016


Dwight 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 6, 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;
 - e. Any citation of legal authority supporting the petitioner, if known;
 - f. Proof of service of the protest upon the water right permit holder, if petitioner is other than the water right permit holder; and
 - g. The applicant or non-applicant protest fee required under ORS 536.050.
3. Within 60 days after the close of the period for requesting a contested case hearing, the Director shall:
 - a. Issue a final order on the extension request; or
 - b. Schedule a contested case hearing if a protest has been submitted, and:
 - 1) Upon review of the issues, the Director finds there are significant disputes related to the proposed agency action; or
 - 2) The applicant submits a written request for a contested case hearing within 30 days after the close of the period for submitting protests.

Notice Regarding Service Members: Active duty service members have a right to stay proceedings under the federal Service Members Civil Relief Act. 50 U.S.C. App. §§501-597b. You may contact the Oregon State Bar or the Oregon Military Department for more information. The toll-free telephone number for the Oregon State Bar is: 1 (800) 452-8260. The toll-free telephone number of the Oregon Military Department is: 1 (800) 452-7500. The Internet address for the United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Legal Services Locator website is: <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>

