

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-15311, Water Right Application G-15568, in	)	PROPOSED FINAL
the name of Peter Nilsson	)	ORDER

Permit Information

Application:	G-15568
Permit:	G-15311
Basin:	8 – Grande Ronde / Watermaster District 6
Date of Priority:	July 23, 2001
Source of Water:	Well 2 in Grande Ronde River Basin
Purpose or Use:	Supplemental irrigation of 240.0 acres
Maximum Rate:	3.0 cubic feet per second (cfs)

Please read this Proposed Final Order in its entirety.

In Summary, the Department proposes to:

- Grant an extension of time to apply water to full beneficial use from October 1, 2007, to October 1, 2011¹.
- Make the extension subject to certain conditions set forth below.

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.

¹Pursuant 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

Application – Application for Extension of Time

PFO – Proposed Final Order

cfs – cubic feet per second

Well 2 – UNIO 50819

FOF – Finding of Fact

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 (Department) for good cause shown shall order and allow 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) 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 therefor; and the income or use that may be required to provide fair and reasonable returns upon the investment.

OAR 690-315-0040 provides that in order to approve an application for an extension of time to complete construction or apply water to full beneficial use, the Department shall make the findings in OAR 690-315-0040(1) including a finding that there is “good cause” to approve the extension. OAR 690-315-0040(2)-(4) contains the factors that the Department must consider to make findings that support a “good cause” determination.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On January 7, 2003, Permit G-15311 was issued by the Department. The permit authorizes the use of up to 3.0 cfs of water from Well 2 in Grande Ronde River Basin for supplemental irrigation of 240.0 acres. The permit specified complete application of water was to be made on or before October 1, 2007.
2. On October 5, 2017, the permit holder, Peter Nilsson, submitted an “Application for Extension of Time” (Application) to the Department, requesting the time to apply water to full beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit G-15311 be extended from October 1, 2007, to October 1, 2011. This is the first permit extension requested for Permit G-15311.
3. On October 10, 2017, notification of the Application for Permit G-15311 was published in the Department’s Public Notice. No public comments were received regarding the Application.

Review Criteria OAR 690-315-0040

In order to approve an Application for an Extension of Time to complete construction and/or apply water to full beneficial use pursuant to ORS 537.230 or 537.630, or to begin construction, pursuant to ORS 537.248, the Department must make the findings in OAR 690-315-0040(1)(a) – (d).

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

4. On October 5, 2017, the Department received a completed Application 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 October 1, 2007, as specified in the permit as being the date to apply water to full beneficial use. Construction of UNIO 50819 (Well 2) began January 8, 2001.
6. According to the well log received by the Department on February 13, 2001, construction of Well 2 began January 8, 2001.

Based on Finding of Fact (FOF) 5 and 6, the Department has determined that the prosecution of the construction of the well began prior October 1, 2007.

Good Cause OAR 690-315-0040(1)(d)

The Department must find that there is “good cause” to approve the extension. In making a “good cause” finding, the Department shall consider the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040(2).

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

In order to make a finding of “good cause” to approve the extension, the Department shall consider whether the applicant has demonstrated “reasonable diligence” in previous performance under the permit. OAR 690-315-0040(2)(a). In determining “reasonable diligence”, the Department shall consider, but is not limited to, the following factors: a) The amount of construction completed within the time allowed in the permit or previous extension; b) The amount of beneficial use made of the water during the permit or previous extension time limits; c) Water right holder conformance with the permit or previous extension conditions; and d) Financial investments made toward developing the beneficial use of water.

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

The amount of construction completed within the time allowed in the permit.²

7. Work accomplished during the original development time frame under Permit G-15311 is as follows:

² “Actual Construction” is defined in OAR 690-315-0020(3)(d)(A) and (B) as physical work performed toward completion of the water system which demonstrates the water right permit holder’s good faith and intention to complete the project with reasonable diligence. Actual construction does not include planning a diversion system, formulating a business plan, securing financing, letting contracts, purchasing but not installing equipment, surveying, clearing land or planting crops.

- completed construction of Well 2;
- installed a pump and meter; and
- connected Well 2 to existing mainlines.

Based on FOF 5, 6 and 7, 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.

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

The water right permit holder's conformance with the permit conditions.

8. The Department has considered the permit holder's compliance with conditions, and has identified the following concern, the required March static water level measurements have not been received by the Department by October 1, 2007.
9. On May 9, 2011, the Department received a static water level measurement performed on March 10, 2011.

Based on FOF 8, the Department has determined that the permit holder has not demonstrated compliance with following permit condition as required by Permit G-15311 before October 1, 2007:

- Initial and Annual Measurements
The Department requires the permittee to submit an initial water level measurement in the month specified above (March) once well construction is complete and annually thereafter until use of water begins; and
- Reference Water Level Measurement
Following the first year of water use, the user shall submit one static water level measurement in the month specified above (March) which will establish the reference level against which future annual measurements will be compared.

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

The amount of beneficial use made of the water during the permit time limits.

10. A maximum rate of 1,450 gallons per minute (3.23 cfs) of water has been appropriated from Well 2 for supplemental irrigation of 240.0 acres. This exceeds the amount of water for supplemental irrigation authorized under this permit. The authorized amount of water for irrigation use is 3.0 cfs.

Based on FOF 8, the Department has determined that beneficial use of water has not yet been demonstrated under this permit because not all permit conditions were satisfied by October 1, 2007.

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

11. The permit holder has invested about \$112,000, which is the total cost for complete development of this project.

Based on FOF 11, the Department has determined that the permit holder had made an investment, which provides evidence of good cause and reasonable diligence towards the complete application of water to a beneficial use.

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

The Application provides evidence that work has been accomplished towards completion of the water system; the permit holder has demonstrated compliance with permit conditions after October 1, 2007, a financial investment has been made, and; beneficial use of water has not been demonstrated by October 1, 2007. The Department has determined the applicant has demonstrated reasonable diligence in previous performance under Permit G-15311.

The Market and Present Demands for Water OAR 690-315-0040(4)(a-f)

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:

- *(a) The amount of water available to satisfy other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows;*
- *(b) 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);*
- *(c) The habitat needs of sensitive, threatened or endangered species, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife;*
- *(d) Economic investment in the project to date;*
- *(e) Other economic interests dependent on completion of the project; and*
- *(f) Other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demands for water and power.*

The amount of water available to satisfy other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows OAR 690-315-0040(4)(a)

12. 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-15311; 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.

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) OAR 690-315-0040(4)(b)

13. The point of appropriation for Permit G-15311, located within the Grande Ronde River Basin, is not located within a limited or critical groundwater area.
14. Grande Ronde River is located above the Wallowa-Grande Ronde Scenic Waterway.
15. The point of appropriation is not in an area listed by the Department of Environmental Quality as a water quality limited stream.

The habitat needs of sensitive, threatened or endangered species, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife OAR 690-315-0040(4)(c)

16. Grande Ronde River 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.

Economic interests dependent on completion of the project OAR 690-315-0040(4)(d)

17. An approximate total of \$112,000 has been invested in the project.

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

18. No economic interests, other than those of the applicant’s, which may be dependent on completion of the project, 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. No other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demand for water and power have been identified.

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

20. The permit holder did identify that the use and income from the permitted water development will result in reasonable returns upon the investment made to date.

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

21. No delay in the development of this project that was caused by any other governmental requirements.

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

22. No unforeseen events extended the length of time needed to fully develop and perfect Permit G-15311.

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

23. The permit holder did identify that a denial of the extension would result in undue hardship in that there is a considerable investment at stake.

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

24. The Application provides evidence of good faith of the appropriator under Permit G-15311.

Based on FOF 5 through 11, and 17, the Department has determined that the applicant has shown good faith and reasonable diligence.

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.

25. As of October 5, 2017, no work is remaining to be completed. This Extension of Time is necessary to comply with a static water level condition and apply water to beneficial use after October 1, 2007.

The Department has determined that the permit holder's request to have until October 1, 2011, to accomplish the application of water to beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit G-15311 is both reasonable and necessary.

Good Cause OAR 690-315-0040(1)(d)

The Department must find that there is "good cause" to approve the extension. In making a "good cause" finding, the Department shall consider the requirements set forth under OAR 690-315-0040(2).

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).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. 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).
2. The applicant has 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).
3. Based on Finding of Facts 5 through 24, full application of water to beneficial use can be accomplished by October 1, 2011, as required by OAR 690-315-0040(1)(c).
4. The applicant can complete the project within the time period requested for the extension on the project.
5. The applicant has demonstrated good cause for the extension.

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-15311 from October 1, 2007, to October 1, 2011.

DATED: November 14, 2017


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 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 **December 29, 2017**, 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.

- If you have questions about statements contained in this document, please contact Jeffrey D. Pierceall at (503)986-0802.
 - If you have questions about how to file a protest or if you have previously filed a protest and you want to know the status, please contact Patricia McCarty at 503-986-0820.
 - If you have any questions about the Department or any of its programs, please contact our Water Resources Customer Service Group at 503-986-0900.
 - Address any correspondence to : Water Right Services Division
725 Summer St NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301-1266
- Fax: 503-986-0901