



Water Right Application Initial Review

August 2, 2019

MERRITT HOLDINGS LLC
ATTN GARY HORNING
27949 EUREKA ROAD
CORVALLIS OR 97333

Reference: Application G-18839

This document is to inform you of the preliminary analysis of the water-use permit application and to describe your options. In determining whether an application may be approved, the Department must consider the factors listed below, all of which must be favorable to the proposed use if it is to be allowed. Based on the information supplied, the Water Resources Department has made the following preliminary determinations:

Preliminary Determinations under Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 690-310-0080:

1. Application G-18839 proposes the appropriation of 0.52 cubic foot per second (CFS) of water from Crowson Well 1 and Crowson Well 2 in Willamette River Basin for irrigation of 41.3 acres March 1 through October 31 of each year.
2. The proposed use is not prohibited by law or rule except where otherwise noted below.
3. Groundwater will likely be available within the capacity of the resource, and if properly conditioned (and if authorized), the proposed use of groundwater will avoid injury to existing groundwater rights.
4. The Department has determined, based upon OAR 690-009, that the proposed groundwater use will have the potential for substantial interference with the Willamette River. Therefore, in accordance with OAR 690-400-0010(11)(a)(B), surface water availability must also be considered. Surface water is available during the full period requested.
5. The Department has determined, based upon OAR 690-009, that Crowson Well 1 and Crowson Well 2 will produce groundwater from unconfined alluvium within a quarter mile of the banks of surface water and is presumed to be hydraulically connected to the surface water. Such hydraulically connected groundwater is classified the same as the surface water source under OAR 690-502-0240. The use of water from Crowson Well 1 and Crowson Well 2 in Willamette River Basin for irrigation **is not allowed** under OAR 690-502-0050(1)(c), the Willamette Basin Program.
6. The proposed use is not located within or above any state or federal scenic waterway.
7. The points of appropriation are not located within a critical, limited, or withdrawn groundwater area.

8. Because this application will have an impact on surface water flows where sensitive, threatened or endangered (STE) fish species may be present, this application will be reviewed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.
9. Documentation has been submitted from the relevant land-use planning jurisdiction that indicates the proposed use is allowed outright.

Summary of Preliminary Determinations
The appropriation of 0.52 CFS of water from Crowson Well 1 and Crowson Well 2 in Willamette River Basin for irrigation of 41.3 acres is not allowable.

Not all determinations herein are favorable; therefore **it is unlikely that Application G-18839 will be approved.**

Public Comment & Further Review:

Public interest issues and/or public comments will be addressed as the Department prepares a Proposed Final Order. If significant public interest issues are identified, they could have an impact on the eventual outcome of the application.

Division 33 Review – The Department’s Division 33 administrative rules (OAR 690-033) establish additional procedures and standards to aid the Department in determining whether a proposed use will impair or be detrimental to the public interest with regard to sensitive, threatened, or endangered fish species. This Initial Review does not address the potential impact that your proposed use may have on these species.

Your application will now undergo an additional review from numerous federal, state, local, and tribal governmental entities. This review may cause your application to be limited, conditioned, or denied. Depending on the proposed use, you may be required to mitigate for potential impacts identified in the review.

Mitigation for impacts to STE Species – Mitigation is often complicated, time consuming, and expensive, and may include, but is not limited to, actions such as replacing the proposed amount of water within the impacted reach through purchasing or transferring an existing water right. Following the Initial Review, you will be notified if mitigation is required, due to impacts to sensitive, threatened, or endangered fish species.

If you choose to pursue mitigation, you will likely need to place your application on administrative hold in order to explore options. There will be an additional fee of \$670 required with any mitigation proposal submitted.

At this time, you must decide whether to proceed or to withdraw the application.

- To Proceed - If you choose to proceed with the application you do not have to notify the Department. The application will be placed on the Department's Public Notice to allow others the opportunity to comment. After the comment period the Department will complete a public interest review and issue a Proposed Final Order.

- To Withdraw - You may withdraw the application and receive a refund (minus a \$260 processing fee per application). You must notify the Department **in writing** by **August 16, 2019**. For your convenience you may use the enclosed "STOP PROCESSING" form.

If a permit is issued, it will likely include the following conditions:

1. Construction of the well shall begin within five years of the date of permit issuance. The deadline to begin construction may not be extended. This permit is subject to cancellation proceedings if the construction deadline to begin is missed.
2. If the number, location, source, or construction of any well deviates from that proposed in the permit application or required by permit conditions, this permit may not be valid, unless the Department authorizes the change in writing.
3. **Water Use Measurement, Recording, and Reporting Condition:**
 - A. Before water use may begin under this permit, the permittee shall install a totalizing flow meter at each point of appropriation. The permittee shall maintain the device in good working order.
 - B. The permittee shall allow the watermaster access to the device; provided however, where any device is located within a private structure, the watermaster shall request access upon reasonable notice.
 - C. The permittee shall keep a complete record of the volume of water used each month, and shall submit an annual report which includes the recorded water-use measurements to the Department annually, or more frequently as may be required by the Director. Further, the Director may require the permittee to report general water-use information, including the place and nature of use of water under the permit.
 - D. The Director may provide an opportunity for the permittee to submit alternative measuring and reporting procedures for review and approval.

4. Static Water Level Condition:

To monitor the effect of water use from the well(s) authorized under this permit, the Department requires the water user to obtain, from a qualified individual (see below), and report annual static water level measurements. The static water level shall be measured in the month of March. Reports shall be submitted to the Department within 30 days of measurement.

Measurements must be made according to the following schedule:

Before Use of Water Takes Place

Initial and Annual Measurements

The Department requires the permittee to report an initial water level measurement in the month specified above once well construction is complete and annually thereafter until use of water begins; and

After Use of Water has Begun

Seven Consecutive Annual Measurements

Following the first year of water use, the user shall report seven consecutive annual static water level measurements. The first of these seven annual measurements will establish the reference level against which future annual measurements will be compared. Based on an analysis of the data collected, the Director may require the user to obtain and report additional annual static water level measurements beyond the seven year minimum reporting period. The additional measurements may be required in a different month. If the measurement requirement is stopped, the Director may restart it at any time.

All measurements shall be made by a certified water rights examiner, registered professional geologist, registered professional engineer, licensed well constructor or pump installer licensed by the Construction Contractors Board and be submitted to the Department on forms provided by the Department. The Department requires the individual performing the measurement to:

- A. Identify each well with its associated measurement; and
- B. Measure and report water levels to the nearest tenth of a foot as depth-to-water below ground surface; and
- C. Specify the method used to obtain each well measurement; and
- D. Certify the accuracy of all measurements and calculations reported to the Department.

The water user shall discontinue use of, or reduce the rate or volume of withdrawal from, the well(s) if any of the following events occur:

- A. Annual water level measurements reveal an average water level decline of three or more feet per year for five consecutive years; or
- B. Annual water level measurements reveal a water level decline of 15 or more feet in fewer than five consecutive years; or
- C. Annual water level measurements reveal a water level decline of 25 or more feet; or
- D. Hydraulic interference leads to a decline of 25 or more feet in any neighboring well with senior priority.

The period of non-use or restricted use shall continue until the water level rises above the decline level which triggered the action or until the Department determines, based on the permittee's and/or the Department's data and analysis, that no action is necessary because the aquifer in question can sustain the observed declines without adversely impacting the resource or senior water rights. The water user shall in no instance allow excessive decline, as defined in Commission rules, to occur within the aquifer as a result of use under this permit. If more than one well is involved, the water user may submit an alternative measurement and reporting plan for review and approval by the Department.

5. Well Identification Tag Condition:

Prior to using water from any well listed on this permit, the permittee shall ensure that the well has been assigned an OWRD Well Identification Number (Well ID tag), which shall be permanently

attached to the well. The Well ID shall be used as a reference in any correspondence regarding the well, including any reports of water use, water level, or pump test data.

The water source identified in the application may be affected by an Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan. These plans are developed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) with the cooperation of local landowners and other interested stakeholders, and help to ensure that current and new appropriations of water are done in a way that does not adversely harm the environment. You are encouraged to explore ODA's website at <https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/AgWQ/Pages/AgWQPlans.aspx> to learn more about the plans and how they may affect the proposed water use.

For Further Information:

Feel free to contact me at Kim.R.French@oregon.gov or 503-986-0816 if you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter or the application. Please include the application number in all correspondence. General questions about water rights and water use permits should be directed to our customer service staff at 503-986-0900. When corresponding by mail, please use this address: Kim French, Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St NE Ste A, Salem OR 97301-1266. Our fax number is 503-986-0901.

Sincerely,



Kim French
Water Right Application Specialist
Oregon Water Resources Department

Enclosures: Application Process Description and Stop Processing Request Form

G-18839
WAB: 2-30200321

APPLICATION FACT SHEET

Application File Number: G-18839

Applicant: MERRITT HOLDINGS LLC

County: BENTON

Watermaster: LANAYA BLAKELY, 2, NWR

Priority Date: JULY 9, 2019

Source: CROWSON WELL 1 AND CROWSON WELL 2 IN WILLAMETTE RIVER BASIN

Use: IRRIGATION OF 41.3 ACRES

Quantity: 0.52 CUBIC FOOT PER SECOND

Basin Name & Number: WILLAMETTE, #2

WAB: WILLAMETTE R > COLUMBIA R - AB PERIWINKLE CR AT GAGE 14174

Well Location(s):

POA Name	Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Measured Distances
CROWSON WELL 1	14 S	5 W	WM	24	SW SW	1270 FEET NORTH AND 1080 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SECTION 24
CROWSON WELL 2	14 S	5 W	WM	24	SW SW	1120 FEET NORTH AND 1080 FEET EAST FROM SW CORNER, SECTION 24

Place of Use:

Twp	Rng	Mer	Sec	Q-Q	Acres
14 S	5 W	WM	23	NE SE	9.1
14 S	5 W	WM	23	SE SE	2.5
14 S	5 W	WM	24	NW SW	14.8
14 S	5 W	WM	24	SW SW	14.9

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: August 6, 2019

14 DAY STOP PROCESSING DEADLINE DATE: August 16, 2019

30 DAY COMMENT DEADLINE DATE: September 5, 2019

APPLICATION PROCESS DESCRIPTION FOR GROUNDWATER, SURFACE WATER AND REGULAR RESERVOIR APPLICATIONS

In order to use the waters of Oregon, an application must be submitted and a permit obtained from the Water Resources Department. The water must be used for beneficial purpose without waste. For more information about water right topics, weekly public notice, forms and fees please visit our web site at www.oregon.gov/OWRD

1. Pre-application considerations

- Follow instructions in the application packet.
- If you have questions about completing an application or would like to arrange a pre-application conference contact the Department's Water Rights Customer Service Group at (503) 986-0900.

2. Application filing

- Application with fee is received by the Department.
- Department determines completeness of application.
- If use is not allowed by statute (ORS 538), the application and fees are returned to the applicant.
- An incomplete application and fees are returned to the applicant.
- Only a complete application receives a tentative priority date, is assigned a caseworker, and moves forward for processing.

3. Initial Review (IR)

- Caseworker reviews application by considering basin plans, water availability, statutory restrictions, and all other appropriate factors.
- Caseworker sends IR report to Applicant.
- Contact the Caseworker if you have questions about the IR.
- Four days after date of the IR, it is included in Department's weekly Public Notice.
- Public comments must be submitted within 30 days after the Public Notice.
- **An administrative hold** may be requested in writing by Applicant.

4. Proposed Final Order (PFO)

- Caseworker evaluates application against required criteria and develops draft permit, if appropriate.
- PFO includes instructions for filing of protests.
- Caseworker considers public comments and mails PFO to Applicant.
- The PFO is included in Department's weekly Public Notice.
- Public protests to the PFO must be submitted within 45 days after the Public Notice.

5. Final Order (FO)

- If no protest is filed, Final Order is issued.

The protest process

If one or more protests are filed, the process consists of:

- settlement discussion;
- contested case hearing;
- proposed Order;
- period of time to file exceptions; or
- Possible hearing by Water Resources Commission.
- Final Order is issued.

Permit holder responsibilities

- Comply with all water use conditions of the permit.
- Advise Department of address change or assignment to new permit holder.
- If need arises, request extension of time or authorize cancellation of permit.
- Submit timely claim of beneficial use (COBU) to the Department.
- Most permits require COBU to be prepared by a Certified Water Right Examiner.
- Permits may be canceled by the permit holder or by the Department for failure to comply with or one or more permit conditions.

STOP PROCESSING REQUEST FORM
FOR GROUNDWATER, SURFACE WATER AND REGULAR RESERVOIR
APPLICATIONS

- Stop processing deadline is within 14 days of Initial Review.
- Applicant notification to withdraw Water Right Application **G-18839**.
- After reviewing the Initial Review for my application, I request that processing be stopped and the fees be refunded (minus a \$260 processing fee.) I understand that without a valid permit I may not legally use the water as requested in my application.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

- Under ORS 537.150 (5) and 537.620 (5) timely submission of this request authorizes that the water right application process be stopped and all filing fees (except \$260 examination fee) be returned.
- This notice must be received at Water Resources Department by:

August 16, 2019

- Return the notice to:

OWRD, Water Right Services Division
STOP PROCESSING
725 Summer Street, NE - Suite A,
Salem OR, 97301-1271

Mailing List for IR Copies

Application G-18839

IR Date: August 2, 2019

Original and map mailed to applicant:

MERRITT HOLDINGS LLC
ATTN GARY HORNING
27949 EUREKA ROAD
CORVALLIS OR 97333

Sent via auto email:

1. Applicant - ghorning1@gmail.com
2. Agent – Steve Bruce - steve@skookumwater.com
3. WRD – Watermaster Lanaya Blakely # 2
4. ODFW
5. DEQ

Copies sent to:

1. WRD - File G-18839
2. WRD – SW Section

Application Specialist: Kim French

Copies Mailed

By: _____
(SUPPORT STAFF)

On: _____
(DATE)