

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

Application for Extension of Time

In the Matter of the Application for an Extension of Time)	PROPOSED
for Permit G-18362, Water Right Application G-17960, in)	FINAL
the name of Stuart and Meggan Hills)	ORDER

Permit Information

Application:	G-17960
Permit:	G-18362
Basin:	9 – Powder / Watermaster District 8
Date of Priority:	November 7, 2014
Source of Water:	Well 1 and Well 2 in Washington Gulch Basin
Rate and Use:	1.85 cubic feet per second (cfs), further limited to 0.35 cfs for primary irrigation of 28.0 acres and 1.52 cfs for supplemental irrigation of 121.52 acres

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 8, 2020, to October 1, 2022¹.
- 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(5), 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

Application – Application for Extension of Time
Department – Oregon Department of Water Resources
FOF – Finding of Fact
PFO – Proposed Final Order
Well 1 – BAKE 52716
Well 2 – not constructed
cfs - cubic feet per second

AUTHORITY

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

ORS 537.630(2) 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 October 8, 2015, Permit G-17496 was issued by the Department. The permit authorizes the use of up to 1.85 cfs of water, further limited to 0.35 cfs for primary irrigation of 28.0 acres and 1.52 cfs for supplemental irrigation of 121.52 acres, from Well 1 and Well 2 in Washington Gulch Basin. The permit complete application of water was to be made within five years of the date of permit issuance, being October 8, 2020.
2. On February 20, 2020, the Department approved Permit Amendment T-13328 (Special Order Volume 116, Page 149) authorizing a change in the point of appropriation under Permit G-17496 (modified by Permit Amendment T-13328). Superseding Permit G-18362 was issued by the Department on February 20, 2020, to reflect the changes.
3. On December 1, 2020, the permit holder, Stuart and Meggan Hills, 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-18362 be extended from October 8, 2020, to October 1, 2021. This is the first permit extension requested for Permit G-18362.

4. On December 8, 2020, the permit holder submitted additional information to supplement their Application. The additional information was to clarify additional work left to be accomplished to complete the water system.
5. On December 10, 2020, the permit holder submitted a request to change the date being requested for complete application of water to October 1, 2022.
6. On December 22, 2020, notification of the Application for Permit G-18362 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)]

7. On December 1, 2020, 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)]

8. Construction of the well began prior to October 8, 2020, as specified in the permit as being the date construction of the well was to be made.
9. According to the well log received by the Department on August 18, 2020, construction of BAKE 52716 (Well 1) began March 18, 2020.

Based on Finding of Fact (FOF) 8, and 9, the Department has determined that the prosecution of the construction of the well began prior to October 8, 2020.

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

10. Prior to permit issuance, irrigation equipment was installed to irrigate the 121.52 acres.
11. Work was accomplished during the original development time frame under Permit G-18362 includes completion of construction of Well 1.

Based on FOF 8, 9, 10, and 11, the Department has determined that work has been accomplished prior to permit issuance and 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.

12. The Department has considered the permit holder’s compliance with conditions, and did not identify any concerns as no water has been appropriated under this permit. 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.

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

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

13. No water has been appropriated from Well 1, or Well 2 under this permit.
14. Delay of beneficial use of water under Permit G-18362 was due, in part, the original Well 1 was located within 100 feet of a previously unidentified existing drainfield. Permit Amendment T-13328 was filed to change the location of Well 1.

Based on FOF 13, the Department has determined that beneficial use of water has not yet been demonstrated under this permit because no water has been appropriated.

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

15. An investment of approximately \$75,516, has been made which is about 76 percent of the total projected cost for complete development of this project. An additional \$24,000

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.

investment is estimated for the completion of this project. Based on FOF 15, 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, a financial investment has been made, and; beneficial use of water has not been demonstrated. The Department has determined the applicant has demonstrated reasonable diligence in previous performance under Permit G-18362.

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.*

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

The amount of water available to satisfy other affected water rights and scenic waterway flows.

16. 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-18362; 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.

continued on following page

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

17. The points of appropriation for Permit G-18362, located within the Powder River Basin, are not located within a limited or critical groundwater area.
18. Powder River is not located within or above any state or federal scenic waterway.
19. The points of appropriation are not in an area listed by the Department of Environmental Quality as a water quality limited stream.

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

The habitat needs of sensitive, threatened or endangered species, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

20. Powder River is located within an area ranked “moderate” 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.

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

Economic interests dependent on completion of the project.

21. An approximate total of \$75,516 has been invested in the project.

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

Other economic interests dependent on completion of the project.

22. Other economic interests dependent on completion of the project have not been identified.

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

Other factors relevant to the determination of the market and present demand for water and power.

23. 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)]

24. The 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)]

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

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

26. No unforeseen events were identified that contributed to the extended the length of time needed to fully develop and perfect Permit G-18362.

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

27. A denial of the extension would result in undue hardship, and that there are no other reasonable alternatives exist for meeting water use needs.

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

28. The Application provides evidence of good faith of the appropriator under Permit G-18362.

Based on FOF 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 21, 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.

29. As of December 1, 2020, the remaining work to be completed consists of completing construction of the water system, meeting all permit conditions, which include installing a totalizing flow meter and completing the required March static water level measurements; 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, 2022, to accomplish the application of water to beneficial use under the terms and conditions of Permit G-18362 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

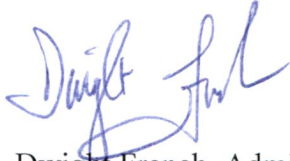
1. The applicant has submitted a complete extension application form and the fee specified in ORS 536.050, as required by OAR 690-315-0040(1)(a).
2. The applicant has complied with the construction timeline requirements to begin construction as required by ORS 537.630, OAR 690-315-0040(1)(b) and OAR 690-315-0040(5).
3. Based on Finding of Facts 8, through 28, full application of water to beneficial use can be accomplished by October 1, 2022, 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-18362 from October 8, 2020, to October 1, 2022.

DATED: January 26, 2021



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 **March 12, 2021**, being 45 days from the date of publication of the proposed final order in the Department's weekly notice.

IMPORTANT: Due to COVID-19, the Department's office is closed to walk-in services. The Department encourages the submission of protests by U.S. mail. Please consider mailing early to ensure the Department receives the protest by the deadline specified above.

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 TO ACTIVE DUTY SERVICEMEMBERS: Active duty Servicemembers have a right to stay these proceedings under the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 503-584-3571 or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>. The Oregon Military Department does not have a toll free telephone number.

Mailing List for Extension PFO Copies

PFO Date: January 26, 2021

Copies Mailed

Application: G-17960

By: _____

Permit: G-18362

On: _____

Original mailed to Applicant:

Stuart and Meggan Hills
42278 Washington Gulch Rd
Baker City, OR 97814

Copies sent to:

1. WRD - App. File G-17960/ Permit G-18362
2. Agent or CWRE representing the Permit Holder

Fee paid as specified under ORS 536.050 to receive copy:

3. None

Receiving via e-mail (10 AM Tuesday of signature date)
(DONE BY EXTENSION SPECIALIST)

4. WRD - Watermaster District 8, Marcy Osborn

CASEWORKER: JDP