

Enrolled House Bill 2178

Ordered printed by the Speaker pursuant to House Rule 12.00A (5). Pre-session filed (at the request of Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski for Water Resources Department and Office of Regulatory Streamlining)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to water right permits to use stored water; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 537.400.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2005 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 537.140 to 537.211 and 537.145 to 537.230.

SECTION 2. (1) Notwithstanding the process for applying for a water right permit established in ORS 537.150 to 537.230, a person may, pursuant to this section, apply to the Water Resources Department for a water right permit to use stored water. A person applying under this section for a water right permit to use stored water shall submit:

(a) A fee, in the amount required by ORS 536.050 for applications to appropriate stored water.

(b) A completed application for a secondary permit, in a form determined by the department, that contains the information required of applications under ORS 537.140 and 537.400 (1).

(c) Evidence that the proposed use of the stored water is one of the authorized uses under the water right permit, certificate or decree that allows the storage of water.

(2) If an applicant provides, to the satisfaction of the department, the fee and the information required by subsection (1) of this section, the department may, after public notice and a 30-day opportunity to submit comments on the application, issue a water right permit upon determining that no public interest issues as identified in ORS 537.170 (8) have been raised through the comments submitted.

(3) If the department determines that public interest issues have been identified, then the department shall treat the application under this section as an application under ORS 537.150 and perform the public interest review required by ORS 537.153 (2).

(4) At a minimum, a water right permit issued by the department for use of stored water under this section shall be conditioned to require:

(a) Fish screens and by-pass devices and fish passage as may be required by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife; and

(b) A measuring device at each point of diversion authorized under the water right permit.

(5) Within 10 days of issuing a water right permit under this section, the department shall provide notice of the permit issuance in the weekly notice published by the department and to persons who have submitted comments pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

SECTION 3. ORS 537.400 is amended to read:

537.400. (1) All applications for reservoir permits shall be subject to the provisions of ORS 537.130, 537.140, 537.142 and 537.145 to 537.240, except that an enumeration of any lands proposed to be irrigated under the Water Rights Act shall not be required in the primary permit. But the party proposing to apply to a beneficial use the water stored in any such reservoir shall file an application for permit, to be known as the secondary permit, in compliance with the provisions of ORS 537.130, 537.140, 537.142 and 537.145 to 537.240. The application shall refer to the reservoir for a supply of water and shall show by documentary evidence that an agreement has been entered into with the owners of the reservoir for a sufficient interest in the reservoir to impound enough water for the purposes set forth in the application, **that the applicant has provided notice of the application to the operator of the reservoir and, if applicable, that an agreement has been entered into with the entity delivering the stored water.** When beneficial use has been completed and perfected under the secondary permit, the Water Resources Department shall take the proof of the water user under the permit. The final certificate of appropriation shall refer to both the ditch described in the secondary permit and the reservoir described in the primary permit.

(2) Whenever application is made for permit to store water in a reservoir or pond for any beneficial use which does not contemplate future diversion of the stored water except by livestock drinking from stock water ponds, the extent of utilization thereof may be included in the reservoir permit and no secondary permit shall be required. However, in cases where water from a stream is required to maintain a reservoir or pond by replacing evaporation and seepage losses, or is required to maintain suitable fresh water conditions for the proposed use and to prevent stagnation, the applicant for permit to store water in such reservoir or pond shall also file an application for permit to appropriate the waters of the stream.

(3) An application submitted to construct a reservoir storing less than 9.2 acre-feet of water or with a dam less than 10 feet in height need not be accompanied by a map prepared by a water right examiner certified under ORS 537.798 as required by ORS 537.140 (4). The map submitted with the application shall comply with standards established by the Water Resources Commission. The survey required under ORS 537.230 shall be prepared by a water right examiner certified under ORS 537.798 and shall be submitted to the department before the department issues the water right certificate.

(4) If a dam safety review is required under ORS 540.350, the department may issue a final order approving an application on the basis of preliminary plans, specifications and supporting information if the approval includes a condition requiring the commission's approval of final plans, specifications and supporting information under ORS 540.350 before the permit is issued.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of ORS 537.211 (2), the department may approve an application for a reservoir permit for which a dam safety review is required under ORS 540.350 and issue a permit, subject to the condition that before the reservoir may be filled, the permittee shall submit to the department evidence that the permittee owns, or has written authorization or an easement permitting access to, all lands to be inundated by the reservoir.

Passed by House March 16, 2005

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Chief Clerk of House

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Speaker of House

Passed by Senate April 25, 2005

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President of Senate

Received by Governor:

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Approved:

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Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

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Secretary of State