

State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
Yakima Washington

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE BY )  
WASHINGTON WATER TRUST )  
REQUESTING A CHANGE IN THE PLACE OF USE ) Emergency Drought  
AND POINT OF DIVERSION OF WATER USE UNDER ) Change Authorization  
SURFACE WATER CERTIFICATE NO. 1176 )  
)

In accordance with the provisions of RCW 43.83B.405, on March 14, 2001, it was ordered and determined by the Director of the Department of Ecology that the State of Washington is under drought conditions. In accordance with the provisions of WAC 176-166-060, the Department of Ecology is under the terms of this Order, issuing an EMERGENCY DROUGHT CHANGE AUTHORIZATION. The intent of this authorization is to alleviate hardships and reduce the burdens on water users arising from the drought conditions.

**Background**

On June 22, 2001, Washington Water Trust filed an application to change a portion of existing water rights in Okanogan County to keep the water in the Methow River. The application was assigned application number CS4-SWC1176@2.

WAC 173-166-080(2)(b) allows the state to authorize temporary transfers a water right from an out-of-stream use to an instream use. The Methow River runoff for the April-September period is forecast to be less than 50% of average.

**Surface Water Certificate No. 1176**

Surface Water Certificate No. 1176, with a priority date of January 8, 1920, was issued to Albert Vertzke and authorizes the diversion of 1.5 cubic feet per second (cfs) for the irrigation of 90 acres from the Methow River. The approximate point of diversion is located within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 10, T. 35 N., R. 21 E.W.M. The place of use is described as:

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 30, and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 19 all within T. 35 N., R. 21 E.W.M.

The applicant proposes to change the irrigation of 65 acres of non-interruptible water rights of Certificate No. 1176 to instream flows to stay in the Methow River. An additional 25 acres will continue to be irrigated.

The point of diversion for Surface Water Certificate No. 1176 will be reduced by the amount of water used to irrigate 65 acres as this water will remain in the Methow River and the 65 acre field shall remain fallow this irrigation season

Approximately 65 acres of irrigation will not occur on the authorized place of use this year under Surface Water Certificate No. 1176, and it is proposed that this amount of irrigation water will remain in the Methow River. According to the Washington Irrigation Guide, 2.08 acre-feet per acre are recommended to irrigate in the Methow area. The irrigation of 65 acres would require 135.2 acre-feet per year at .34 cubic feet per second (cfs) during the 200 day irrigation season.

Placement of water into trust in accordance with Ecology's Trust Water Guidelines requires, among other parameters of the trust water right, determinations of the total and consumptive water use and the "primary" and "secondary" reaches affected. An emergency decision does not provide the time necessary to evaluate all aspects of the guidelines. Therefore, the analysis leading to the trust water recommendations in this report is simplified and conservative. The secondary reach is defined as the stream reach extending from the point of diversion downstream to the confluence of the Methow River with the Columbia River.

**Conclusions and Decision**

Authorizing these changes of water rights to keep water in the Methow River will not impair existing water rights.

This **DROUGHT EMERGENCY CHANGE DECISION** authorizes the transfer of water to irrigate 65 acres under Surface Water Certificate No. 1176 in Okanogan County to the Methow River.

An instantaneous quantity of .34 cfs is authorized to stay in the Methow River. Irrigation of 25 acres will continue under Surface Water Certificate No. 1176.

**Provisions**

The following provisions shall apply to this change authorization:

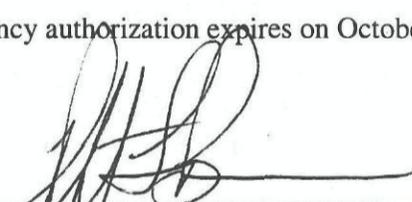
Within 15 days of receipt of this authorization, the applicant shall submit a map to Ecology showing the lands (65 acres) formerly irrigated under Surface Water Certificate No. 1176 that will not be irrigated under this right. It must also show the 25 acres that will continue to be irrigated under Surface Water Certificate No. 1176.

A measuring device approved by the Department of Ecology must be installed to monitor the water being diverted to irrigate the 25 acres.

Bi-weekly (every 2 weeks) readings of the measuring device shall be recorded and shall include the date and time of measurement, water flow rate, volume of water, and the name of the person taking the meter readings. Within 30-days of the end of this irrigation season, the permittee shall send a copy of this data to the Central Regional Office.

This drought emergency authorization expires on October 31, 2001.

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Robert F. Barwin, Section Manager

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

7/24/2001

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Enclosure(s):