



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

7272 Cleanwater Lane • PO Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (206) 753-2353

June 20, 1994

Dear Applicant:

A preliminary review of your application by our office indicates that the Department of Ecology has concerns about the availability of water within your project area. Please note your water right application has been assigned Water Right No. G 2-29054.

Your proposed well site is located within the ground water basin of a stream on which we have concerns of low flows, and degraded fish habitat. Our concerns about the Upper Cowlitz River are based on comments received from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (as required under RCW 75.20.050). The Department of Ecology can not issue any water rights in the vicinity of the stream which would reduce stream flows below those necessary to adequately support food fish and game fish populations in the stream.

It is possible that your application will be denied or provisioned with restrictions if processed for a final decision. As we are currently unable to predict when we will be able to process your application for a decision, we want you to be aware of these water availability concerns so that you can consider pursuing other options.

The Water Resources Program





STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600 •

May 18, 1994

Dear Water Right Applicant:

As you may recall, the 1993 Washington State Legislature passed legislation intended to enhance the Department of Ecology's program for water right decisions. The bill created a Water Rights Fees Task Force to examine the process for making water right decisions, recommend efficiency measures, and develop a new water right fee structure to support 50 percent of the activities and services surrounding water right decisions. Half of the program's funding for water right decisions during the second portion of the biennium was expected to be generated from new fees. Unfortunately, the task force recommendations on increased fees did not pass the 1994 legislature and Ecology has been forced to cut 35 staff.

With help from my staff and representatives of the many water interests, I have examined priorities for our program. Rendering water right decisions is listed among our new priorities. However, due to specific language in the budget, staffing devoted to this activity has been cut significantly. Effective May 1, 1994, we will give priority to water right applications needed for emergencies concerning public health or safety. Priority also will be given to requests for water right changes and transfers and short-term authorizations for public projects, such as road-building. Decisions on other water right applications will be delayed, probably for several years.

This means that the majority of new water right applications and many applications for change will continue to await decisions. You will be notified when we are ready to work on your application. Your priority date will be maintained during this waiting period.

Please review the attached Focus Sheet for other priorities and more details. If you still have questions, please call the person listed on the attached sheet. To better manage the use of staff time, I have set office hours as follows:

Telephone Calls
Mondays and Wednesdays
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Walk-ins
Tuesdays and Thursdays
8:00 a.m. to noon

Our limited staff will respond to your questions and concerns as soon as possible. Special appointments can be arranged as necessary.

Sincerely,

Carol L. Fleskes

Carol Fleskes, Manager
Water Resources Program

Enclosure

