

Report Continued

west from the southeast corner of Section 35, Township 20 North, Range 6 East, W.M., King County. Twelve cfs of power production water will be reused for fish propagation on lands located in the S½ SE¼ Section 35, Township 20 North, Range 6 East, W.M., King County. The water will be returned to the White River just downstream of the Buckley diversion dam.

Puget has requested that application S1-25687 be canceled upon Ecology's acceptance of the application for change of claimed water right,

INVESTIGATION:

The surface water intake structure is to be located on the north bank of the river approximately 1,800 feet upstream from the Buckley diversion dam, approximately 600 feet north and 800 feet west from the southeast corner of Section 35, T. 20 N., R. 6 E.W.M. The proposed structure consists of a flat screen against the bank and a pumping system located in a concrete vault in the dike. Three pumps, (20 h.p., head = 32 feet, flow = 1200 gpm, RPM = 1170) will divert the water from the river. One of the pumps is a spare; only two pumps will be used in Phase I. A lockout switch on the third pump will prohibit all three pumps from operating at the same time. Two separate pumps will move the water from the intake structure through a pipe to the aeration column prior to the water entering the hatchery. Twelve cfs of water will be pumped from the river, with 2 cfs used to operate the static sieves to remove river sediments.

The sediments removed by the static sieves will either join hatchery effluent in a settling pond, or be routed to the clarifier. Sediment handling may require a permit, discussions with the Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program, Northwest Regional Office need to be initiated.

A wetland's complex of 82 acres is located on the project site. A wetlands inventory, White River Hatchery Wetland Assessment Report (November 1990) was completed by the applicant. The water supply for the wetlands is regional ground water and a spring located in the northeast corner of the well field. The water supply for the wetlands is impacted by pumping the well field. During the low-flow period, spring-water flows in the wetlands were impacted by well field utilization. Pumping of the well field at a rate of 900 gpm reduced the flow in the wetlands north of the hatchery access road from about 700 gpm (at the culvert under the project access road) to about 70 gpm after four days of pumping. Long-term impacts of the well field on the wetlands are unknown. A proviso in the report of exam for G1-25214 requires that the wetlands be maintained in essentially their natural condition, and water diverted from the White River, under this proposed change, will be used to augment the wetland's water supply.

In developing the project associated with this application, the applicant was required to comply with the State Environmental Policy Act, King County lead agency, and obtain a State Flood Control Zone Permit. A State Flood Control Zone Permit was obtained on August 6, 1987 for the preliminary test of the well field. A mitigated determination of nonsignificance (DNS) was issued by King County on January 21, 1992 for construction of the surface diversion facility. The mitigated DNS relies upon provisos in Ecology's report of exam for ground water application G1-25214 to retain the wetlands complex in essentially its natural condition.

Joe Robel (WDF) is working with Puget on the HPA for the project. I talked with Joe on March 16, 1992 and there do not appear to be any problems with issuance of an HPA.

A National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit regulating hatchery discharge is not required at this time, because the applicant is producing less than 20,000 pounds of fish and/or using less than 5000 pounds of fish food per month.

An office review of existing water rights in the area indicates none of the existing rights will be impaired by this proposed change.

CONCLUSION:

The administrative review of Water Right Claim No. 160822 indicates Puget appears to have a vested water right. A vested water right can be changed pursuant to RCW 90.03.380. The requested change will not enhance nor expand the right represented by Water Right Claim No. 160822 nor will such approval impair existing water rights.