



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

P.O. Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300

January 22, 2001

Mr. Bob Johnson
Lewis Co. Community Development Dept.
350 N. Market Blvd.
Chehalis WA 98352

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am a water resources investigator and am writing on behalf of Mr. Don Brule and his golf course development project near Mayfield Lake. I understand he has received preliminary plat approval but is in danger of losing the approval due to inability to acquire water rights in a timely manner.

Mr. Brule submitted an application for a water right on Dec. 23, 1994. It was assigned water right application # G2-29169 and is still an application in good standing. At the time, a letter was sent (copy enclosed), explaining that the application would not be acted upon for some time due to limited staff. Unfortunately, the situation has not improved. With limited staff resources, we are only able to work in a few watershed basins at a time. At this time, I can't predict when we will be processing applications in the Cowlitz watershed, Water Resource Inventory Area 26.

It would be unfortunate for Mr. Brule to lose plat approval through no fault of his own and I am hoping he can receive an extension till such time as we are able to work in that area and process his application.

Please call me at (360) 407-6643 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Pat Locke
Ecology, Water Resources

cc: Lewis County Commissioners
Mr. Don Brule

PL:th
Enclosure





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January 4, 1995

Dear Water Right Applicant:

We have received your application for water rights. Your application has been assigned the following number G 2-29169. Please refer to this number in future correspondence.

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 new water right decisions. Half of the programs 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 was forced to cut 35 staff.

With help from staff and representatives of the many water interests, we 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, our top priority is to water right applications needed for emergencies concerning public health or safety, as designated by Department of Health. Priority also will be given to requests for water right changes, 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, we have set the following office hours:

Telephone Calls
Mondays and Wednesday
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Walk-Ins
Tuesdays and Thursdays
8:00 am to 12:00 (noon)

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

Sincerely,

Gale Blomstrom
Water Resources Supervisor

GB:th
Enclosure

