



State Engineer's Office

HERSCHLER BUILDING
FIRST FLOOR EAST
CHEYENNE, WY 82002
(307) 777-6150

MARK GORDON
GOVERNOR

RICK DEUELL
STATE ENGINEER

September 11, 2019

Janine Jordan, City Manager
City of Laramie
City Manager's Office
P.O. Box C
Laramie, WY 82073

Darren Parkin, Natural Resources Manager
City of Laramie
City Manager's Office
P.O. Box C
Laramie, WY 82073

RE: Permit Nos. U.W. 210667 (UW 2019 Exploration Well A),
U.W. 210668 (UW 2019 Test-Monitor Well B), and
U.W. 210669 (UW 2019 Exploration Well B)

Dear Ms. Jordan and Mr. Parkin:

I received the City of Laramie's August 13, 2019 letter regarding the State Engineer's Office (SEO) approval of the University of Wyoming's (UW) three test well permits listed above. The City is concerned that the proximity of UW's proposed wells to the City's existing Turner wells has the potential to detrimentally affect the municipal water supply and its customers.

Please note, beneficial use of water (i.e., providing water to the Jacoby Golf Course) is not authorized under these permits. The permits authorize the drilling and completion of **test wells** to determine the potential yield of the aquifer and/or feasibility of irrigation wells for "lawn watering supply" – one of which (Permit No. U.W. 210668) may also be converted to a monitoring well. If the test wells prove successful, UW certainly has the ability to submit production well applications for the State Engineer's Office' (SEO) review.

As noted in the City's letter, this is UW's second attempt to drill wells for the purpose of providing water to the Jacoby golf course. The SEO approved two applications for Miscellaneous use in 2005, Permit Nos. U.W. 165500 (the JRC-1 well) and U.W. 165501 (the JRA-1 well). The JRA-1, was located in the same quarter quarter section (i.e., SW SW, Section 25, T16N, R73W, Albany County) as the proposed test well, UW 2019 Exploration Well A. Permit No. U.W. 165501 was cancelled at the request of the applicant since it was not as productive as hoped; Permit No. U.W. 165500 has expired. Upon receipt of the UW

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applications, the SEO solicited comments from both the City of Laramie and the Albany County Planning Office due to the potential for the proposed wells to impact the City's water rights, as well as domestic water rights. Those comments and the SEO's responses are attached for your review.

In 2016, Wyoming Groundwater, LLC, and Hinckley Consulting generated the "UW Irrigation Water Supply, Level II Study Technical Memorandum Well Siting, Proposed Drilling Program, and Interference Opinion". The technical memorandum provided a preliminary evaluation and professional opinion of anticipated hydraulic impacts to the City of Laramie's municipal wells at the Turner Wellfield and water right administration issues – both of which were developed for the Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO). The technical memorandum (also attached) may alleviate some of the City's concerns relative to not only the potential for future production wells in the vicinity of the City's municipal wells to impact those wells, but also the responsibility of the City itself to ensure the defensibility of their water rights.

Since the SEO has only received test well applications, and not production well applications, further discussion of the City's concerns may be premature.

We appreciate your efforts to protect Laramie's municipal water supply, and we are available to meet with if you would like to discuss this issue further.

If you have any questions, please call me at (307) 777-5063.

Sincerely,



Lisa Lindemann, Administrator
Ground Water Division

Attachments

Copy: Rick Deuell, State Engineer
Brian Pugsley, Superintendent, Water Division 1
Josh DeBerard, Hydrographer/Commissioner
Adam Skadsen, Hydrographer/Commissioner