



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200 • Yakima, Washington 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490

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June 22, 2006

Scott Turnbull
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Mr. Turnbull:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the optional determination of nonsignificance for the rock and gravel excavation for ponds, proposed by Scott and Gayle McIntosh [C-06-011 & C-06-012 & C-06-013]. We have reviewed the documents and have the following comments.

Water Resources

Any surface water diversion will require application to the Department of Ecology for a water right permit.

No water right records associated with this property were found in the Central Regional Office.

In Washington State, prospective water users must obtain authorization from the Department of Ecology before diverting surface water or withdrawing ground water, with one exception. Ground water withdrawals of up to 5,000 gallons per day used for single or group domestic supply, industrial purposes, stock watering or for the irrigation of up to one-half acre of lawn and garden are exempt from the permitting process.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources comments, please contact Virginia Stone at 509.454.7289.

Water Quality

Coverage under the S&G gravel general permit will be required for excavation of gravel from this site. The application for coverage is due 180 days prior to the anticipated date for starting operations, e.g. land clearing.



Scott Turnbull
June 22, 2006
Page 2 of 2

If you have any questions concerning the Water Quality comments, please contact Phelps Freeborn at 509.454.7277.

Shorelands/Environmental Assistance

The SEPA document does not identify the presence of wetlands on site. However, the aerial photo submitted with SEPA materials shows channel scars from previous meanders of Dry Creek and the National Wetland Inventory map shows a large wetland in the area where the excavation will occur on both parcels. Pond excavation should not occur within wetlands without appropriate mitigation. Pond areas created which are less than 6 feet deep *may* be considered as wetland areas (depending on function), but areas of the pond greater than 6 feet deep would not be considered to meet the definition of a wetland for mitigation purposes. Pond excavation should not change site hydrology so that nearby wetlands are diminished or floodway location(s) affected. The potential of a channel shift in the Creek that would capture the pond and resultant potential impacts to area wetlands should also be evaluated. Ecology would be happy to assist the County in initial site wetland reconnaissance or wetland report review.

If you have any questions concerning the Shorelands/Environmental Assistance comments, please contact Catherine Reed at 509.575.2616.

Sincerely,



Gwen Clear
Environmental Review Coordinator
Central Regional Office
509.575.2012