

December 14, 2012

Name  
Address  
City, State Zipcode

**RE: Water Right Application No. XX-XXXX**

Dear Applicant:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about options regarding your pending application for a new water right located within the Wenatchee River Basin in Chelan County. Pursuant to RCW 90.03.265(3), Chelan County and local municipal water purveyors have asked Ecology to initiate a coordinated cost-reimbursement process. Ecology has agreed to facilitate the processing of new water rights in the Wenatchee Basin. If you choose to participate in this program, you can pay a state contractor to process your application. If you choose not to participate in this program, your application will remain on file, but others will be processed ahead of you. Additional information regarding coordinated cost-reimbursement processing is contained below.

The first step in this program is to ensure we are communicating with the owner of each water right application. Our records show that «first\_nm» «last\_nm»«business\_nm» filed Water Right Application No. «wr\_doc\_file\_nr» with Ecology on «priority\_dt». This application may meet the requirements for processing under this program. In order to confirm eligibility, we need to update our records with current information from applicants. Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed Response Sheet and return it to the address listed in this letter. Instructions for completing the Response Sheet are enclosed in this letter.

**If you are not the applicant:**

- Mark the box on the Response Sheet that states, "I am not the applicant, nor the legal representative of the applicant."
- Sign the Response Sheet and return it by **January 25, 2013**.

**If you are the applicant, please:**

- Fill out the remainder of the Response Sheet by checking all boxes that apply.
- Sign the Response Sheet and return it by **January 25, 2013**.

**Coordinated Cost-Reimbursement Processing**

Cost-reimbursement processing was established by the Washington State Legislature to speed the processing of water right applications. Applicants expressing interest in this program for the Wenatchee Basin will be sent a formal letter and have 60 days to submit written notification of their intent to participate in this program. We anticipate this letter will be mailed in April 2013. Applicants that do not respond within this period will not participate in the program, and their application will remain on file.

Following this effort to verify applicant contact information and interest, Ecology will estimate the cost of the program. Applicants who agree to pay the processing cost will enter into formal contracts in the summer of 2013. Applications will be processed in the order they were filed with Ecology. Decisions to approve or deny applications are expected to be completed within six months of the applicant entering into the contract.

The decision to approve or deny an application rests with Ecology.

### **Cost to the Applicant**

Applicants electing to participate in the coordinated cost-reimbursement processing will share the overall cost for application processing. The cost for each participant will be based on the amount of water requested, whether it is for a surface diversion or groundwater well, whether it qualifies for the reserve, and other factors affecting the complexity of processing the application (see criteria below). Once Ecology verifies contact information and interest, Ecology will estimate the cost for each applicant to have their application processed. Based on past cost-reimbursement contracts, processing costs will likely be in the range of \$5,000 to \$15,000. No payment is required at this time for applicants electing to learn more about the program.

Criteria used to examine applications and determine eligibility will include the following:

- Whether the application meets the four tests for issuing a water right (i.e., water is available, the proposed use is beneficial, and the new use will not impair other water rights or the public interest).
- Whether the application requests a surface diversion or groundwater well.
- Whether the proposed purpose and quantity are eligible under the 4 cubic feet per second reserve in Wenatchee Instream Flow Rule, WAC 173-545-090 set aside for future beneficial use. Purposes eligible for the reservation are limited to domestic purposes, irrigation associated with a residence, domestic water requirements associated with municipal, commercial and industrial purposes and stock water.
- Whether the proposed new use can be met by an interruptible water right (one that is subject to minimum flows being present in the Wenatchee River). There are approximately 45 interruptible water right holders in the Wenatchee Basin today that get a continuous supply for approximately three in ten years, with the remaining years interrupted during some weeks in the summer/fall.

As initiators of the coordinated cost-reimbursement process for the Wenatchee Basin, Chelan County selected Aspect Consulting, LLC (Aspect) as Ecology's pre-qualified consultant to lead the project. To accomplish this project on behalf of the County and Ecology, Aspect is coordinating outreach to water right applicants.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Bill Sullivan at (509) 888-5766 or email at [bsullivan@aspectconsulting.com](mailto:bsullivan@aspectconsulting.com).

Thank you in advance for responding promptly to this letter. By doing so, you are helping us to begin the permitting process more quickly.

Sincerely,



Mark Kemner, Section Manager  
Water Resources Program  
Central Regional Office, (509) 454-4258

Enclosures:      Instructions for Completing the Response Sheet  
                         Response Sheet