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APR 30 2026

OFFICE OF WATER

DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and NATURAL RESOURCES

JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 E. CAPITOL AVE
PIERRE SD 57501-3182
danr.sd.gov

Applicant's Petition

Opposing Chief Engineer's Recommendation on Water Permit Application

According to South Dakota Codified Law sections 46-2A-3, 46-2A-4(6) and 46-2A-23, the applicant needs to file a petition if opposing the Chief Engineer's recommended action on the applicant's water permit application.

Application No. 8817-3 Name of Applicant Merlin Vannorsdel / Scott Vannorsdel

The Application No. can be found in the public notice mailed to you or at <https://danr.sd.gov/public>.

Filing Deadlines. If you are opposing a recommendation by the Chief Engineer to DENY your application, you need to submit this completed petition opposing the recommendation within twenty days of the date the recommendation was mailed to you. If you are opposing any other recommendation, this petition needs to be submitted no later than the deadline date provided in the public notice. The mailing address is provided above and should be sent to "Attention - Water Rights Program" or personally served upon Water Rights.

List the reasons for opposing the Chief Engineer's recommendation on this application:

- I have included a typed up opposing letter.

- reasons added

1. The Chief Engineer has specifically stated there has been "several" water permits that haven't been fully developed is simply not true
2. As a ~~prev~~ previous boardmember stated you are a water board not an acre board
3. I have proven on paper the pumping rate of which I have asked for is significantly less than what I'm permitted to pump
4. Stated in a previous report to the ~~chief~~ Chief Engineer on page 1 of 11 second paragraph down last sentence states to irrigate an additional 91 acres with NO increase in the maximum instantaneous diversion rate from the well.

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Any additional reasons for opposing the Chief Engineer's recommendation on this application:

S. And the last is I'm frustrated asking ~~to~~ to use less water on more acres and I am being denied!!! I do things the right way. Not allowing this is not having any common sense what so ever. If you ~~as~~ as a board would please study ask questions and reconsider, I was put off for two yrs. and now I'm asked to wait another 5 yrs.

Thank you

Scott Unnorsdel

605-310-8610

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Application No. 8817-3 Name of Applicant Merlin Vannorsdel

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Reason for opposing the Chief Engineer's recommendation

The original well permit No. 8594-3 approved on June 1 2022 was never developed. Recently we have asked to relocate permit site and were approved in doing so with permit application No. 8594A-3. The permit was to irrigate 156 acres using a traditional pivot system pumping 800 gpm. We will not be using a traditional pivot system as we have purchased what is called a 360 Rain Machine which is an autonomous irrigation system. The 360 Rain follows the rows and applies a band of water directly at the base of the plant making better use of the water applied. This has caught the attention of other states and grant money is being offered because of the water saving I have been told.

Example of water savings are as follow:

Traditional pivot system: (156 acres approved for)

-Putting on .60 of water at 800 gpm (800 gpm which is what we were requesting in original permit)

-typical 4 days to make a circle

-1440hrs in a day X 800gpm = 1,152,000 gallons per day X 4 days = 4,608,000 gallons

360 Rain Machine: (156 acres approved asking to approve 91 more)

-Putting on .30 of water at 200gpm

- remember .30 from 360 Rain is the same as .60 from a traditional pivot because it is directly applied at base of plant in a 15 inch band

-At 200 gpm 360 Rain can provide 70.85inches-acre per week

-70.85/247 acres (156 plus 91 denied) = .29 inch

-So if 360 Rain runs for 7 days at 200 gpm would be 1440 minutes in a day X 200 gpm = 288,000 gallons per day times 7 days = 2,016,000 gallons

Summary:

Traditional pivot usage would be 4,608,000 gallons used (156aces)

360 Rain Machine 2,016,000 gallons used (156 plus 91denied = 247total)

We will be using significantly less water on the 247 acres than we would be on the 156 acres

We strongly ask for your reconsideration to this denial for the significantly less amount of water being used.

We have included an information sheet on the 360 Rain machine as well.

Contact is Scott Vannorsdel cell 605-310-8610 email scottvannorsdel@yahoo.com

Thanks for your consideration.

Merlin Vannorsdel

