

NOTICE OF APPLICATION NO. 8995-3 to Appropriate Water

Notice is given that Bixler Farms, 39477 184th Street, Hitchcock SD 57348, has filed an application for a water permit to appropriate an additional 1.78 cubic feet of water per second (cfs) from one new well (65-75 ft deep), to be completed into the Tulare: Western Spink Hitchcock Aquifer, located in the approximate center of the SW 1/4 Section 31-T114N-R62W to irrigate existing acres already authorized by Water Right No. 5182-3. Water Right No. 5182-3 authorizes the diversion of 1.88 cfs from one well completed into the Tulare: Western Spink Hitchcock Aquifer (73 feet deep) located in the approximate center of the NW 1/4 Section 31 for irrigation of 279 acres located in the W 1/2 NE 1/4, W 1/2 Section 31; all in T114N-R62W. This application, if approved, and Water Right No. 5182-3, combined, will authorize a combined total of 3.66 cfs from two wells (one existing and one new) for irrigation of a total of 279 acres. This site is located approximately three and one-half miles east-northeast of Hitchcock SD.

Pursuant to SDCL 46-2A-2, the Acting Chief Engineer recommends APPROVAL of Application No. 8995-3 with qualifications because 1) unappropriated water is available, 2) existing domestic water uses and water rights will not be unlawfully impaired, 3) it is a beneficial use of water, and 4) it is in the public interest as it pertains to matters within the regulatory authority of the Water Management Board. The Acting Chief Engineer's recommendation with qualifications, the application, and staff report are available at <https://danr.sd.gov/public> or contact Amanda Dewell for this information, or other information, at the Water Rights Program address provided below.

Any person interested in opposing this application or recommendation shall allege that the application, upon approval, will cause injury to the person that is unique from any injury suffered by the public in general. The injury must concern a matter either within the regulatory authority found in SDCL 46-2A-9 for approval or denial of the application, or other matter concerning the application within the regulatory authority of the board to act upon as defined by SDCL 46-2-9 and 46-2-11, or both. Any person meeting the petitioner requirements and wishing to be a party of record in a contested case hearing shall file a written petition to oppose the application with BOTH the applicant and Acting Chief Engineer. A petition opposing the application shall be filed on a form provided by the Acting Chief Engineer. The petition form is available online at <https://danr.sd.gov/public> or by contacting the Acting Chief Engineer. The Acting Chief Engineer's address is "Water Rights Program, Foss Building, 523 E Capitol, Pierre SD 57501" or call (605) 773-3352. The applicant's mailing address is given above. If contesting the Acting Chief Engineer's recommendation, the applicant shall also file a petition. A petition filed by either an interested person or the applicant must be filed by May 11, 2026.

The petition shall include a statement describing the unique injury upon approval of the application on the petitioner, the petitioner's reasons for opposing the application, and the name and mailing address of the petitioner or the petitioner's legal counsel, if legal counsel is obtained.

Any interested person may file a comment on the application with the Acting Chief Engineer. The comment shall be filed on a form provided by the Acting Chief Engineer and is available online at <https://danr.sd.gov/public> or by calling (605) 773-3352 or writing the Acting Chief Engineer at the address provided above. Filing a comment does not make the commenter a party of record or a participant in any hearing that may be held. Any comment must be filed by May 11, 2026.

If the applicant does not contest the recommendation of the Acting Chief Engineer and no petition to oppose the application is received, the Acting Chief Engineer shall act on the application pursuant to the recommendation with no hearing held before the Water Management Board. If a petition opposing the application or contesting the recommendation is filed, then a hearing will be scheduled, and the Water Management Board will consider this application. Notice of the hearing will be given to the applicant and any person filing a petition.

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