



STATE OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
442 STATE CAPITOL
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84114

DIVISION OF
WATER RIGHTS

HUBERT C. LAMBERT
STATE ENGINEER

April 8, 1968

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Bene, Deputy State Engineer
Donald Norseth, Donald Stewart and Harold Donaldson,
Division Heads
Dallin Jensen, Assistant Attorney General
Gerald Stoker, Area Engineer, Cedar City, Utah

FROM: Hubert C. Lambert, State Engineer

RE: MILFORD VALLEY HEARING

The following procedure is suggested in acting on the petition of the Milford Water Users which seeks to cut water use on priorities in Milford Valley.

1. A public hearing will be called by the State Engineer under the statute cited in the petition of the Milford Water Users. Notice of this hearing will be published in the newspapers serving the area to be affected. Since this area actually encompasses valleys other than Milford Valley it is believed coverage should include Washington, Iron, Beaver and Millard Counties. In addition to published notice the State Engineer should direct an individual notice to all the water users paying assessment in the Milford Valley. It is suggested that this hearing be held on Wednesday, May 1, 1968, at 8:00 p.m. at the Beaver County Courthouse at Beaver, Utah.

2. At this hearing all interested parties and their attorneys should first make a statement relative to their position in the matter. After these statements, unless the water users present information which would alter his position, the State Engineer would indicate that an investigation called for by the statute would be initiated. No time limit should be imposed but an indication should be made that a decision on the matter will be made as soon as possible. This investigation would include the following:

- a. Inventory of water rights broken down in categories of use and according to priority date.

- b. Basic information as to the position of water table in various locations. This should be considered over as long a period of time as possible. Early studies by White and Meinzer were made about 1916. All temperatures and precipitation records should also be considered.
- c. A complete record of State Engineer water meter measurements should be categorized as to pumpage of wells in specific areas. Where possible, the flowing well discharges should be tabulated.
- d. The information from the above should be placed on a graph which would indicate possible relationships.
- e. Study of the economic impact of cutting 10,000 acre-feet and 20,000 acre-feet of water use should be made. This should include a tabulation of those farms taken out of production, those partially affected, and those which would not be affected. The two categories would indicate what long-range administrative cuts might do to the area.
- f. A study by the United States Geological Survey should be made regarding the relationship of water use cuts in Milford Valley to water use in the surrounding valleys including Beryl-Enterprise, Cedar City Valley, Parowan Valley and Beaver Valley.

3. At the close of the hearing the State Engineer should indicate that he will keep the water users informed periodically of the progress and results of the investigation. When possible a completion date will be announced which would give all water users sufficient time to adjust the operations for any season that will become involved.

Hearing should adjourn.