

GENERAL MEETING WITH WATER USERS
OF THE
MILFORD DISTRICT OF ESCALANTE VALLEY

Nov. 9, 1967
7:00 p.m.
Milford, Utah

I. Introduction

- a. Welcome those present.
- b. Express thanks for use of building.
- c. Purpose of meeting.

To discuss with the water users the administration and distribution of water in Milford Valley.

- d. Introduction of State Engineer and U. S. G. S. staff: State Engineer, Hubert C. Lambert; Adjudication Engineer, Harold D. Donaldson; Distribution Engineer, Donald Norseth; Appropriation Engineer, Donald Stewart; Southwest Utah Area Engineer, Gerald Stoker; Water Commissioner, Lee Strong. U. S. G. S. staff - Ted Arnow, District Chief for Utah and Woody Sandberg, Hydrologic Engineer with the U.S.G.S.

II. Mr. Ted Arnow will give an up-to-date report on groundwater conditions in the Milford District.

- a. Water levels (decline) (comparison with earlier years)
- b. Movement of water (direction of flow)
- c. Source of groundwater.

III. Mr. Donald Norseth will review past history of State Engineer's policies in Milford Valley.

- a. Action taken on applications.
- b. Distribution of water.
- c. Action taken on temporary change applications.
- d. 1967 pumpage compared to 1958 pumpage.
- e. Questions.

IV. Presentation by State Engineer

A. Review problems in the area

1. Water levels are declining in the Milford Valley groundwater district.
2. Water is being mined (more is being withdrawn than is coming into the basin as recharge)
3. Recharge for the Milford Valley is primarily from three areas:

- a. Underflow from the Southern part of the valley.
- b. Unconsumed seepage water from the Beaver River (Rocky Ford Reservoir) irrigation around Minersville.
- c. Runoff from small streams from the west side of Mineral Mountains.
- d. The below average flow in Beaver River since 1950 has resulted in less water available for recharge in the Milford Valley (exceptions were 1952, 1958)

B. Action of the State Engineer

With the groundwater in this area declining as it is, it is necessary that the State Engineer take certain steps to attempt to stabilize the water level. Therefore, the following policy will be adopted by his office.

1. Temporary Change Applications

- a. Temporary changes will be approved for emergency purposes only!
- b. If an irrigator finds that he is going to need more water than his water right and cannot possibly get by it will be necessary for him to file a temporary change at least 30 days prior to the time he wishes to use the water. The Commissioner will be instructed not to deliver water to anyone who needs excess water that has not conformed to this policy.
- c. Irrigators are encouraged not to plant more acreage than their water right allows. If you are farming more acreage than your right calls for it is doubtful that the State Engineer will approve a temporary change to move sufficient water to irrigate this enlarged acreage.
- d. Temporary changes will not be approved for someone who wants in excess of 4.0 ac.ft. per acre. (This includes those that make a practice of using more than 4.00 ac.ft. per acre each year.)

2. Permanent Change Applications

- a. The State Engineer will continue to maintain a liberal change policy.

- b. If you have more acreage under cultivation than you have water right you should arrange to purchase supplemental water rights and file a permanent change to move those rights onto your land.
 - c. Applicants are urged to acquire those rights in their immediate area if possible to avoid the possibility of interference.
 - d. Those moving large quantities of water by change applications from one part of the valley to another should be aware that if individual interference develops they will be required to make compensation for the interference.
 - e. Those with late priority water rights are encouraged to purchase early priority rights whenever possible.
3. It is hoped that these policies will help to stabilize the groundwater levels in the valley. However, if the downward trend continues it will be necessary for the State Engineer to take additional action to stabilize the basin. This would include -
- a. Cutting out the rights of junior appropriators to decrease the withdrawal of the acre feet from the basin. In order to cut out 1,000 ac.ft. withdrawal of groundwater from the junior appropriators, all rights with a priority later than October, 1948 would have to be discontinued.
 - b. Eliminate all rights that are not used for a five-year period because of non-use.
 - c. Allow 4.00 acre-feet withdrawal only for those acreages being irrigated. (Irrigated acreages would be surveyed annually to fix acre-foot award)