IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

FILED
NOV 14 2002
STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION NUMBER.....69075.....,
FILED BY..BRIGHT-HOLLAND CORP., A NEVADA CORPORATION.,
ON.....AUGUST 15....., 2002....., TO APPROPRIATE THE
WATERS OF .....UNDERGROUND..... } PROTEST

Comes now.....David M. Rumsey.....
Printed or typed name of protestant

whose post office address is.....P.O. Box 232 Gerlach, NV 89412.....
Street No. Or P.O. Box, City, State and Zip Code.

whose occupation is .....Wetlands Habitat Operator..... and protests the granting of Application Number .....69075....., filed on .....August 15....., 2002..... by .....Bright-Holland Corp., A Nevada Corporation.....to appropriate the waters of .....Underground.....situated in .....Washoe.....
Underground or name of stream, lake, spring or other source

County, State of Nevada, for the following reasons and on the following grounds, to wit:

.....See Attachment "A".....

THEREFORE the Protestant requests that the application be .....Denied.....
Denied, issued subject to prior rights, etc., as the case may be

and that an order be entered for such relief as the State Engineer deems just and proper.

Signed .....
Agent or protestant

.....Chris C. Mahannah, P.E., Agent.....
Printed or typed name, if agent

Address.....P.O. Box 5007.....
Street No. or P.O. Box No.

.....Reno, NV 89513.....
City, State and Zip Code No.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this .....12th.....day of.....NOVEMBER....., 2002.....

.....
Notary Public

State of.....Nevada.....

CINDY REILLY
Notary Public - State of Nevada
Appointment Recorded in Washoe County
No: 92-1995-2 - Expires January 25, 2004

County of .....Washoe.....

$25 FILING FEE MUST ACCOMPANY PROTEST. PROTEST MUST BE FILED IN DUPLICATE.
ALL COPIES MUST CONTAIN ORIGINAL SIGNATURE.

Attachment "A"

1. The Protestant owns permitted and certificated artesian ground water rights (Certificate 1599 & Permits 64555 – 64558) which have priorities of 1924 and 1998 respectively. These waters are for wildlife and domestic purposes and support a wetlands and wildlife restoration program which has been endorsed by the Nature Conservancy, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the USDOI, Fish and Wildlife Service. This wetland habitat serves wildlife habitat including: waterfowl, fish, resident birds, migratory birds, raptors, upland game birds, and large game wildlife such as deer and pronghorn antelope. This habitat relies upon the natural artesian flows from several ground water wells. These wells may cease to flow if the applications are approved given the large proposed diversion rates of 5 cfs and points of diversion located within eight (8) miles of the Protestant's wells. There is no power at the Protestant's site to pump the wells, therefore if the wells cease to flow naturally, the wetlands restoration program will become impractical.

This application, if grated, will conflict with existing and prior rights held by the Protestant and others in the Smoke Creek Desert. Impacts to wetlands which wildlife have come to rely on will be detrimental to the public interest.

2. Based on existing and pending applications within the Smoke Creek desert, there is in excess of 70,000 acre-feet of ground water which has either been permitted or applied for with senior priorities. The perennial yield of the basin has been estimated at 16,000 acre-feet per year by the USGS. Therefore there is no unappropriated water in the Smoke Creek Desert.

3. The Protestant reserves the right to amend and add to this protest as new information becomes available regarding the applications.

4. The Protestant hereby reserves the right to adopt the arguments presented in any other protest to these applications.

5. The applicant has recently protested similar applications for appropriation (68807 – 68811) on the grounds that there is no unappropriated water available in Basin 21, the use will conflict with existing and prior rights and the applications would be detrimental to the public interest. The applicant asked that these applications be denied.