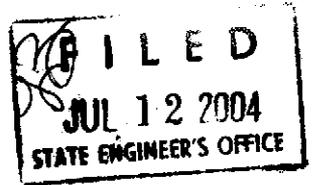


IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION NUMBER.....71179.....,
FILED BY..HIDDEN RIDGE, LLC/VIDLER WATER COMPANY, INC.
ON..... MAY 6....., 2004....., TO APPROPRIATE THE
WATERS OF UNDERGROUND.....



PROTEST



Comes now..... Nye County.....
Printed or typed name of protestant
whose post office address is..... P.O. Box 153.....
Street No. Or P.O. Box, City, State and Zip Code.
whose occupation is Unit of Local Government..... and protests the granting
of Application Number 71179....., filed on May 6....., 2004.....
by Hidden Ridge, LLC/Vidler Water Company, Inc..... to appropriate the
waters of Underground..... situated in Nye.....
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:

The Nye County Board of County Commissioners protests Application #71179, and associated applications (#71174 through #71180, inclusive), and requests that the Nevada State Engineer deny this and the associated applications without further consideration or hearing.

According to information contained in the files of the Nevada Division of Water Resources, there is no groundwater available for appropriation in Basin 230. Existing certificated and permitted water rights exceed the currently accepted perennial yield of the basin and the County has, in recent years, been required to purchase water rights to support County needs and requirements.

The application, if granted, may impair Nye County's senior water rights in Basin 230, as well as the senior rights held by the citizens of the County. The subject application and associated applications total almost 12 cfs or more than 8,600 acre feet. If permitted, the development of this quantity of groundwater from seven closely spaced points of diversion could result in accelerated water level declines, degradation of water quality, increased pumping and water treatment costs, and other impairment.

Nye County has senior water right applications located in Basin 230 (Applications #s 66072, 66077, 66078, 66079, and 66081). The County's applications were timely protested by a number of federal agencies and are now Ready for Protest. If any or all of the County's applications to appropriate groundwater are granted, those water rights could be impaired if the subject application is approved and additional groundwater is developed.

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 [Signature]
Agent or protestant

MaryEllen C. Giampaoli, Agent
Printed or typed name, if agent

Address..... P.O. Box 127.....
Street No. or P.O. Box No.

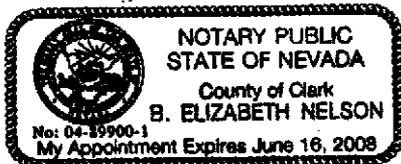
Blue Diamond, NV 89004
City, State and Zip Code No.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of July, 2004

[Signature]
Notary Public

State of Nevada

County of Clark



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