

Gronlund, Eric

From: Linda Rae Barker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 9:25 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Re: FDLS Water Permit, Pringle SD, 2730-2

Subj: Water permit 2730-02 FDLS - Pringle, SD

Dear Mr. Gronlund,

I own property in Canyon Rim Ranch, Pringle South Dakota. You, most likely, have heard from other property owners in this beautiful area of the Southern Black Hills.

The polygamist organization, FDLS, has applied for an increase in their water rights on the property which they purchased and developed on the North side of Red Canyon. Not only has it been frustrating to have this sect near out property, now they are apparently planning to increase the population at the compound.

I am sure that you are aware of the practices of the FDLS...Warren Jeffs is their founder and Seth Jeffs, his brother, is directly involved in the operations of the South Dakota site.

My husband and I purchased this property with a dream to build a home for retirement and family get togethers. My family has deep roots in South Dakota. My paternal grandfather settled near Dupree/Isabel and was a well respected rancher with a sizable spread. My maternal grandfather, Wesley Clark from Redfield, was the Attorney General of the State of South Dakota. My uncle Sterling Clark from Belle Fourche served also as Attorney General for the State. My father and mother were both graduates of Yankton College. My father is now 97 years old and very active in Rapid City.

In 2013 my husband passed away. At the time I was living in Rapid City. My daughter and her husband moved to the Denver area, and I elected to relocate to be close to family. It is no longer practical to maintain the property in Canyon Rim. I attend the Homeowners meetings every year, taxes and dues are paid current, however, I am making an effort, regretfully, to sell my land.

We have an interested party at this time, however, their main concern is the presence of the FDLS community and the disturbance their sect has created in this area. The practices of this group and the subsequent publicity surrounding same are making it very difficult to sell a property in Canyon Rim.

I am requesting that you take whatever measures you need to stop the approval of the Water Permit request submitted by the FDLS - United Order of South Dakota. Please help us maintain integrity in this beautiful region. The homeowners who are already there are good, responsible people who love the peace and quiet of Red Canyon.

All efforts will be appreciated.

Respectfully,

Linda Rae Barker
Lakota I - Canyon Rim Ranch, Pringle South Dakota



Gronlund, Eric

From: Julie Turner [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 12:55 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: SD water permit application number 2730-2 9-10-15

Dear Mr. Gronlund, Water Rights Program:

I'd like to voice my deep concern about the FDLS compound's request for increased water usage in Custer County. To grant them this request would be an overwhelmingly bad decision for the public interest.

My husband and I are long-time visitors to the Black Hills. Since childhood I have dreamed of living there. We have been seriously pursuing a land purchase in Custer County. One of our prime choices had us driving directly by the FDLS compound. It is unsightly and noisy. We immediately erased that property from consideration. There is no way we wanted to drive by that eyesore daily, nor listen to construction at all hours of the day and night. They have ruined the beautiful Black Hills forest scenery and continue to build unsightly structures.

No one selling land was very forthcoming about what the FDLS was, so looked up information about this organization at our local library and read many news articles. In particular, I read "Prophets Prey" by Sam Brower, the man responsible for gathering much of the information that resulted in placing Warren Jeffs in prison. If you have not, I would strongly encourage you to read this book. I was shocked and saddened at what I learned and even more dismayed that we as a country, are allowing this organization to continue on it's destructive path.

What is going on behind those walls has been proven by the State of Texas. To merely allow them to move their group from state to state and expect protection is insane. This is not a question about religious rights but instead rape, incest and pedophilia. They also do not pay their taxes. They hide money and force underage labor. They refuse to tell us how many people they have living there. *What more do we need to have to deny them a permit for more water?* Any other organization would be denied.

Custer County, the State of South Dakota and it's citizens need to sum up the courage to take a firm stand. If this place remains in operation, it will ultimately result in many negative affects,

including tourism. South Dakota has already lost one potential constituent, as we have sadly decided that until this compound is closed, we are not considering living there. We can not live in a county/state that refuses to acknowledge and do something about the wrong doing going on in their own backyards.

Please forward this letter to the Water Management Board. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jim & Julie Turner

Gronlund, Eric

From: John Buchanan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 1:09 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water permit application 2730-2

Mr Gronlund,

I am writing to you about the upcoming hearing on the water permit application referenced above, #2730-2, and to ask you to please do whatever you can to deny this application. My wife and I own two parcels of land in Custer county and plan to build our retirement home on five acres not too far from the FLDS compound that is asking for this large increase in water use. We are customers and users of the Southern Black Hills Water System (SBHWS) and strongly believe that the increase in water use and storage capacity by this group is definitely NOT in the public interest.

There are concerns about the real need for this large increase in water use and nobody can tell us how many people this group plans to serve with all this water. I pay my taxes on the our land on time every year as well as maintain two water accounts with SBHWS in good standing, and just want to have our voices and serious concerns heard by those in a position to make this decision.

We are members in good standing of the public and believe that allowing this permit is not in the public interest.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

John A. Buchanan and Mary Helen Dirkes
[REDACTED]

Gronlund, Eric

From: Nancy Nuttbrock [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 8:58 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: water permit application number 2730-2

Dear Mr. Gronlund,

{Please forward this email to the Water Management Board.}

I am certain that you are all aware of the problem we have in Custer County. The Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or FLDS, has a compound near Pringle, and it appears that they are planning to increase their population.

The cult members are not nice people, upstanding citizens, or good neighbors. As an organization, the FLDS is well known for polygamy, arranged marriages between underage girls and old men, child rape, and the expulsion of young men. Those who think that the Pringle FLDS community is different, and consists of only benevolent members, are kidding themselves.

The people who live in the compound are not model citizens. They choose to delay paying property taxes for as long as possible, up to 3 years. Consequently they are in arrears by hundreds of thousands of dollars. The county does not have enough money for education and roads. Imagine how a few hundred thousand dollars would help if the FLDS members paid their property taxes on time, like the vast majority of county citizens do.

The compound members are not good neighbors. When they are in construction mode, they operate day and night, running heavy equipment that is very noisy, and illuminating the area with bright lights after dark.

The South Dakota Water Management Board is currently considering a permit application from the FLDS to drill a new well, which would increase its capability to pump water from 100 gallons per minute to 200 gpm, to replace a 30,000 gallon underground water tank with an above ground tank of at least 250,000 gallons, and to replace existing main lines with 6" and 8" lines. By contrast, the Southern Black Hills Water System, which services 350 customers, has a 100 gpm well, a 125,000 gallon storage tank, and its largest main lines are 6". The FLDS compound is 140 acres. The SBHWS territory covers many square miles.

The FLDS compound near Pringle appears to be preparing for more members. Many of these could be coming from the Yearning for Zion FLDS temple in El Dorado, which was closed by the state of Texas.

Denial of the latest FLDS well permit application by the Water Management Board could prevent a significant increase in population in the Pringle compound.

The Water Management Board held a hearing in Pierre in July to consider the application. I was present, and testified in opposition to the permit approval, on the grounds that granting increased use of state water by the FLDS would not be in the public interest. Other people spoke out against the approval of the permit as well, on the same grounds.

Seth Jeffs testified on behalf on the permit approval. Seth is the brother of Warren Jeffs, the FLDS leader who is in prison. Seth is the water operator for the Pringle FLDS, and filed the permit application. In spite of many questions from lawyers and board members, Seth would not provide any information about how many people live in the compound, about what goes on in the compound, or about the United Order of South Dakota, the name of the trust for the FLDS in our state.

Eventually the frustrated board members voted to delay their decision until the next board meeting on October 14.

For the good of Custer County, its tax-paying citizens, ***this application must be denied.***

Nancy Nuttbrock

Custer County Property Owner
[REDACTED]

Gronlund, Eric

From: Steve Buttress [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 8:32 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water permit application 2730-2

Eric

Would you please forward this message to the members of the water board. Thank you.

Dear Water Board Members

As I understand it, the standard for issuing the permit is, Is it in the public interest?

It's hard for me to see how enabling the FLDS to continue their industrial-scale expansion in the otherwise remote, peaceful and quiet canyon country is in the public interest.

The FLDS holds what they describe as 'religious beliefs'. Unfortunately those 'beliefs,' as described in the books "Escape" and "The Prophets Prey" are the excuses they use to violate the laws of our country. Those violations include polygamy, child sexual abuse and violations of child labor laws. This link describes the US Department of Labor's actions against the FLDS for such actions.

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/wjhd/WHD20151660.htm#.VfDNk3rQqsU.mailto>

The FLDS has not changed their "beliefs." The only thing they have changed is their address, from Utah and Colorado and Texas to South Dakota. We will be dealing with the same criminal violations at the point when investigations develop the evidence to prosecute.

The Water Board can play an important role in limiting the damage the FLDS can do to its victims in the meantime. Vote "NO" on the permit application. You have ample evidence that it is not in the public interest. I'm certain that the input you are getting from the public is overwhelmingly opposed to the permit. You will be strongly supported in your refusal to grant the permit.

Thank you Steve Buttress

--

Steve Buttress
[REDACTED]

Gronlund, Eric

From: Keith and Kathy Rabuse [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 6:17 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water Permit Application 2730-2
Attachments: E.Gronlund_Objection Letter SD Water Mgt Bd_09.13.15.pdf

Mr. Gronlund:

Please find attached a letter of objection to the Water Permit Application 2730-2.

We will greatly appreciate your forwarding a copy of the letter to the members of the Water Management Board prior to the hearing scheduled in October.

Regards,

Keith and Kathy Rabuse
[REDACTED] Custer County, SD

September 13, 2015

Eric Gronlund
Water Rights Program
State of South Dakota
eric.gronlund@state.sd.us

Re: Water Permit Application 2730-2

Dear Mr. Gronlund:

We are owners of property at Canyon Rim Ranch in Custer County, SD. Please forward this message to the members of the Water Management Board.

We are writing to object to the application by the United Order of South Dakota (FLDS), Seth Jeffs, water operator, to increase their capacity to pump water from 100 gallons per minute to 200 gpm, and to replace their underground 30,000 gallon water tank with an above ground tank of at least 250,000 gallons, and to increase their main water lines from 6" to 8".

This application is not in the public interest.

The size of the FLDS property in the application is 140 acres. They have not identified how many people are currently served by their water system, and how many additional are planned to be served by this increased water, nor for what purpose the water is intended. In contrast, the Southern Black Hills Water System services 350 customers over many square miles, has a 100 gpm well, and a 125,000 gallon storage tank, and it's largest main lines are 6".

With an increase in water usage of the magnitude requested in the FLDS application, there is no documentation provided by them that shows that they have the capacity within their 140 acres to handle the additional septic/waste needs.

Their application intends for the FLDS to be self-monitoring and self-reporting. With their secretive nature and complete lack of transparency in this application alone, there should be no trust allotted to them in this regard. As an example of their disregard for local laws and regulations, they have established the habit of delaying payment on their county taxes for up to 3 years, continually maintaining a balance of hundreds of thousands of dollars. These people do not behave as good citizens and good stewards, and should not be afforded the benefit of trust.

No one knows how many people are living at the FLDS compound at this time, and whether their population exceeds that allowed by Custer County ordinances. It is suspected that their request for this very large increase in water service is intended for the purpose of further increasing the number of people living there.

The Custer County Construction Permit Requirements state:

"No more than two (2) dwelling units are allowed on any lot, tract or parcel of land. Each dwelling unit is required to have a separate wastewater disposal system."

September 13, 2015

Further, the Custer County Individual On-Site Wastewater Systems Permit Requirements state:

"A site evaluation by a representative of the Custer County Planning Department will generally be required prior to the installation of any small on-site wastewater disposal system.

An Individual Wastewater Disposal Permit will not be issued until the percolation test results and general layout of the proposed system have been approved by the Planning Director or his representative."

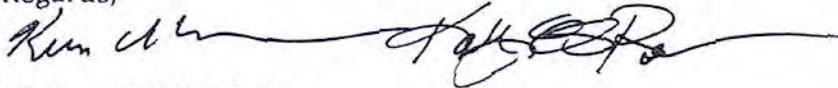
Without confirmation by Custer County that the intended use on the 140 acre tract by the FLDS meets the regulations of the County for density and has been approved by the Planning Director for the necessary waste water disposal that will be generated by the greatly increased draw and use of water, the state Water Management Board should not approve an application for increased water draw, storage, and distribution on the property.

This application is not in the public interest.

Our water resources are precious. We strongly encourage the Water Management Board to reject Water Permit Application 2730-2. The applicant has not shown how they plan to use and manage the water, nor proven that they have a need for such a significant draw from our aquifers. There are deep ramifications to such a concentrated draw, and subsequent output, of water in a very small footprint.

Thank you for your kind consideration to our objection.

Regards,



Keith and Kathy Rabuse

[REDACTED] Custer County, SD

Jacobson, Gail

From: Nielsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 5:18 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: FLDS Water

Please forward this message to the Water management board

I strongly object for the FLDS to drilling a new well. I very concerned as water is not a renewable resource and to limit this well to any group is not ok with me. Please pass this along.

Thank you

Nina Nielsen

Jacobson, Gail

From: Nielsen [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 11:09 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: application number 2730-2

Please forward this message to the Water management board

I strongly object for the FLDS to drilling a new well. I very concerned as water is not a renewable resource and to limit this well to any group is not ok with me. Please pass this along.

Thank you

Nina Nielsen

Jacobson, Gail

From: Marc & Jeana Shaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 11:08 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: water permit application 2730-2

Mr. Gronlund:

I am writing to ask you to forward a message to the Water Management Board to deny the water permit application for the FLDS compound located in Pringle (application #2730-2). Granting this organization additional water from the state is NOT in the public's best interest and will adversely affect property values in the area. Please do not allow this application to go through.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Jeana and Marc Shaw

Jacobson, Gail

From: SDSooze [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 11:45 AM
To: Grönlund, Eric
Subject: Water Management Board: Permit Application 2730-2

Importance: High

Please do not permit additional water to the FLDS near Pringle. If they don't know, or won't report, the number of residents, how can they justify the need for additional water? Water is a very scarce resource here in western South Dakota and not to be squandered mysteriously.

Sincerely, Susan Stimson-Sugzda

Jacobson, Gail

From: Leon Handrick [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 3:23 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: FLDS in Pringle SD

I live in Custer and spend the winters in Austin, TX. Several years ago while in Texas I read with a great deal of interest the State's closing of the FLDS compound and incarceration of Warren Jeffs for reasons everyone is aware of to include child molestation disguised as spiritual marriages. The FLDS in Texas is the same as the FLDS in South Dakota. Their request for more water is to accommodate an influx of members from Texas, Utah and Arizona. Their request should be denied as a pursuit to further their illegal activities; aka crimes of polygamy and statutory rape.. As an observation, shouldn't So. Dakota pursue the legal steps that Texas did?

Please forward this message to the Water Management Board.

Thank you;

Leon Handrick
[REDACTED]
Custer, SD 57730

Jacobson, Gail

From: Linda M. Hasselstrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2015 12:00 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water permit for FLDS

Dear Mr. Gronlund and the Water Management Board,

Thanks to the intelligent editorial written by Custer resident Mike Fleming and published by the Custer County Chronicle, I am asking you to include my name among those protesting the granting of any water permits to the FLDS group in Custer County.

As the board surely knows, and as I have probably written in every single of my 15 published books, water supplies have always been precarious in western South Dakota. They are particularly precarious in the southwestern part of my county, and already strained by the demands of developments like the Tatanka complex, and the proposed mining of uranium by the Chinese-owned company Azarga.

Custer County has always been agriculture-based. Tourism businesses, while providing income, have also strained our resources, both in water, and in other ways.

Meanwhile, Custer County authorities say they have no legal basis upon which to provide control of the FLDS organization. Providing a permit for even more water will encourage the FLDS to continue their practices of raping little girls under the guise of religious freedom. Please help stop their influence by not allowing them to expand further in our county.

Thank you for passing my comments on to The Water Management Board.

Linda M. Hasselstrom
[REDACTED]

Author of:

JUST RELEASED: *The Wheel of the Year: A Writer's Workbook*

Dirt Songs: A Plains Duet, with Twyla M. Hansen; *No Place Like Home: Notes from a Western Life, Between Grass and Sky, Feels Like Far, Bitter Creek Junction, Land Circle, Dakota Bones, Going Over East, Windbreak, Bison: Monarch of the Plains, When a Poet Dies, The Roadside History of South Dakota, Roadkill, Caught By One Wing.*

Editor of *Leaning into the Wind, Woven on the Wind, Crazy Woman Creek* with Gaydell Collier and Nancy Curtis; also editor of *Journal of a Mountain Man*, by James Clyman.

Website: www.WindbreakHouse.com

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/WindbreakHouse

Blog: WindbreakHouse.WordPress.com

Windbreak House Writing Retreats

 Hermosa, SD 57744


Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 10:48 AM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: Application #2730-2

From: Chic Keeley [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 10:43 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Application #2730-2

Allowing the FLDS to acquire more water from the state is not in the public interest.

Please forward this message to the Water Management Board.

Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 11:03 AM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: application number 2730-2

From: Pete&Edie [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 8:13 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: application number 2730-2

To whom it may concern at the South Dakota Water Management Board.
In reference to water permit application number 2730-2. As a resident of Custer County, I request you reject this application as allowing the FLDS compound to acquire more water from the state is not, in my opinion, in the best interests of the residents of Custer County.
Thank you,
Peter Burkett, Custer, SD

Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 12:47 PM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: FLDS
Attachments: FLDS.doc

From: Paul VanBockern [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 12:15 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: FLDS

Mr. Gronlund
Please share my thoughts with the water board. I also sent a similar message to the Governor

Thank you

Paul Van Bockern
CEO
WR Hospitality LLC

[REDACTED]

Paul Van Bockern



Mr. Eric Gronlund

My wife Karen and I own property in southern Custer County. Canyon Rim Ranch, is a wilderness preservation development where 29 property owners have either built their cabin and living the dream or continue to dream of building a cabin in the Black Hills.

We and many of our neighbors have a problem and are asking for your help. On the surface it appears to be about water but the results much deeper with the potential of affecting all of South Dakota. The South Dakota DENR Water Management Board is currently considering an application from the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS). In addition to their current well or wells they now are asking permission to drill another 200 gpm well, which if approved would lead to an uncontrolled expansion of this polygamist compound.

We are opposed to the expansion and their application for this additional well. It is interesting to read the testimony Seth Jeffs, the compound's water manager and brother to the famed Warren Jeffs, offered to the Board in July. He offered no reasons for the water expansion or did he answer many of the questions posed to him by the Board. At the hearing on July 10 everyone from the public who was able to give comment was opposed to this new application.

No one really knows what goes on in the guarded compound but all speculate the same as happened in Texas. This South Dakota problem will only grow along with the numbers of members in the community if additional water permits are granted to the FLDS *without valid reasons and without regular inspections to verify water consumption. Just not an annual report left to the compound leadership.*

It's amazing to stand at the rim of Red Canyon looking across to the Compound to see the expansion taking place and the environmental damage created in just a few years. The concerns are real and at some point as neighbors we hope the FBI, County and State law enforcement officials will develop the evidence needed to close the operation and seize the property. *In my opinion it is not a matter of if only a matter of when.*

As you know the The Water Board meets again mid-October. My hope is Seth Jeffs once again offers no reasons for expansion of wells in the compound making denial much simpler for the Board.

I know you are already aware of this ever increasing problem in Custer County and ask that you share my views with the water management board. Perhaps the many voices who wish to stop the drilling of an additional well by the FLDS will be heard. The leaders of this cult are not good neighbors or for that matter good citizens of Custer County and the State of South Dakota.

Regards,

Paul Van Bockern

Paul Van Bockern

Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 4:21 PM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: Application # 2730-2 water permit for FLDS

From: Oestmann, Shelia
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 3:52 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Application # 2730-2 water permit for FLDS

Dear Eric,

I'm am writing in regards to the FLDS Compound water permit request. I am very much against this request. I'm a Pringle resident and water is a precious commodity. Please seriously consider denying this permit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Shelia Oestmann



Pringle, SD 57773



Confidentiality Notice: This E-mail (including attachments) is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510-2521 and is confidential. This email communication and any attachments may contain proprietary and privileged information for the use of the designated recipient(s) named above. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message

Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 7:52 AM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: Letter to the Water Management Board
Attachments: Eric Gronlund of the Water Rights Program.docx

-----Original Message-----

From: Terry Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 5:48 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Letter to the Water Management Board

Mr. Gronlund,

Please forward our letter to the Members of the Water Management Board.

Thank you.

Scott and Terry Johnson

Hot Springs, SD 57747
September 18, 2015

Dear Members of the Water Management Board:

We live approximately 4 miles from the Fundamentalist Latter Day Saints (FLDS) Compound near Pringle, SD. FLDS members rented a home in our subdivision for two years. We have been vocal about our concerns about the abuse of children and spoken to the following people:

- Spring 2013, editor of the Custer County Chronicle, from whom we ask for anonymity at that time,
- Summer of 2014, Congresswoman Kristi Noem's aide in the Rapid City office,
- April 2014, agents from the Division of Criminal Investigation and U. S. Homeland Security came to our home regarding the FLDS activity in our subdivision.
- April 2015, Senator John Thune's aide in the Sioux Falls office.
- June 2015, Seth Tupper, investigative reporter of the Rapid City Journal,

In addition, in May 2014 we and the other two officers of the Pine Butte Subdivision Homeowners' Association met with the Custer County Sheriff and deputies, and two special agents from the SD Division of Criminal Investigation. All were interested in what we learned living near members of the FLDS who were living outside the compound.

We were told by the Custer County Sheriff that the home rented by the FLDS was used as a "house of proving." It doesn't take much imagination to figure what a House of Proving means when older men and very young women and children are involved. We are concerned about the obvious future expansion of the FLDS Compound near Pringle, SD particularly in light of their application to drill a new well increasing their water capacity from 30,000 gallons to 250,000 gallons, which doubles the size of the existing Southern Black Hills Water System tank serving approximately 350 homes.

Attached is a letter we sent in January 2015 to U. S. Senator John Thune, U. S. Senator Mike Rounds, U. S. Representative Kristi Noem, S. D. Governor Dennis Daugaard, S. D. Attorney General Marty Jackley, S. D. State Representative Mike Verchio, S. D. State Representative Bruce Rampelberg, S. D. State Representative Lance Russell, Custer County Commissioner Chairman Phil Lampert, Custer County Commissioner Mark Hartman, Custer County Commissioner Travis Bies, Custer County Commissioner David Haseltine, Custer County Commissioner Jim Lintz about the underage children suspected of being involved in sexual activity with and sexually abused by older men at the FLDS compound in Pringle. Only two of the 12 responded to our letter—Senator Rounds and Senator Thune. In addition to the abuse of its children, the FLDS creates local problems, for example, by taking over local political offices as witnessed in AZ and CO cities, water usage, houses in hiding and/or houses of proving. Because only one wife is recognized by the government, the other four, five, six or more may choose to receive government financial assistance, referred to by the FLDS as "Bleeding the Beast." There are multiple problems for local and state governments associated with the FLDS, but the most alarming and destructive is sexual abuse of children.

The residents you are currently hearing from have chosen to live here full time or part time. They bring expertise, experience and a willingness to help. Some volunteer their time in various capacities and some continue to work. Most contribute their time and their money to SD. Please listen to what they are saying before it is too late to stop a major migration of the FLDS.

The approval of the water permit will seal the deal for the FLDS in Pringle. The group can expand, and hundreds will move here. Sadly, children will continue to be abused. Pringle, SD can add to its legend as Elk Capitol of SD, Pedophile Capitol of SD joining the communities of Eldorado, TX, Hillsdale, UT and Colorado City, AZ. We ask you to take a stand against their absurd request, deny the water permit and therefore the expansion of the FLDS. Protect and save children.

Sincerely,

Scott Johnson, Terry Johnson



Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 7:45 AM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: water permit application 2730-2

From: Nancy Glassgow [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 6:15 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: water permit application 2730-2

Mr. Gronlund, I would like for you to forward this on to the members of the Board who will be meeting in mid-October to consider the application of the FLDS compound near Pringle, South Dakota. I would very much like for the members of the Board to check out a book called, "Prophet's Prey" by Sam Brower who is himself a Mormon (not to be confused with the followers of Warren Jeffs who are NOT Mormons). I researched Mr. Brower before reading the book to be sure of his reputation and authority on the subject. Mr. Seth Jeffs who has been the one to come to Pierre and meet with the Board is a convicted felon who has molested young men but with the help of good lawyers got off with probation! This is not a group of people who go "quietly about their business" without hurting anyone. They are people who molest and abuse women and children; the fact that a large number of them are settled here in the Black Hills and are essentially doing whatever they please with no interest shown by law enforcement is very sad. I would be very happy to send my copy of this book to you if the Board would at least be willing to review it and consider what is written by this man. He has made it his job to try to help women and young men who break away from the group and try to live a normal life away from the sexual, physical, and emotional abuse.

Trust me, this issue is about much more than water; I realize that members of the Board may not want to get involved, but if they won't at least be willing to look into the history and abuse of this group, then perhaps we have a bigger problem to deal with. Apathy and just "sending the application on" will essentially give these people the blessing of the people of South Dakota to continue the abuse. It is about more than polygamy and to believe that they have the "right" to live their lives as they choose is to close our eyes to the fact that children and women are suffering every day in the middle of our beautiful Black Hills.

I am a nurse, a mother and a grandmother and I would do anything to expose the truth of what is happening there. Please, ask the Board who is considering this permit to do the same.

Thank you very much.

Nancy Glassgow
[REDACTED]
New Underwood, SD 57761
[REDACTED]

Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 9:37 AM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: Water Permit Application Number 2730-2
Attachments: Water Management Board.docx

-----Original Message-----

From: dhorne4@cox.net [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 9:32 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water Permit Application Number 2730-2

Mr. Gronlund,

Attached to this e-mail is a letter to the Water Management Board concerning the above referenced Water Permit Application. Please forward this letter to the Members of the Board.

Thank You,

David Horner

David Horner

[REDACTED]
Omaha, NE 68164

September 24, 2015

Water Management Board
South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Joe Foss Building
523 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Re : Water Permit Application Number 2730-2

Dear Board Members,

As you are undoubtedly aware, there is increasing concern in Custer County and the State of South Dakota over the presence of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS) in the southern Black Hills, near Pringle. This is the same organization whose principals of faith include multiple wives and the forced marriage of underage girls to men who are sometimes decades older. The leader of this organization, Warren Jeffs, was sentenced to life in prison in Texas for sexual abuse of a child. Many believe Warren Jeffs continues to direct the FLDS from prison. There are other FLDS communities in Utah, Arizona, Colorado and elsewhere.

The State of Texas has confiscated FLDS property, and the Federal Government is prosecuting the FLDS for discrimination against non-FLDS members in the Utah and Arizona communities. In addition, the Department of Labor has issued a \$2,000,000 fine against the FLDS and its leadership, including Lyle Jeffs, one of Warren Jeffs brothers, for forcing underage children and others in the community to harvest pecans without pay. Forcing their underage children (some as young as 8 years old) to work is a very common behavior in all the FLDS holdings.

This sect, through a common law trust known as the United Order of South Dakota, owns a 140 acre compound outside Pringle. The trust, through its representative Seth Jeffs, has applied with the DENR to drill an additional well on the property that would double its current water withdrawal capacity of 100 gallons per minute, and to build a 250,000 gallon water tower. Seth Jeffs is the "water manager" for the compound and is another brother of Warren Jeffs. Seth was convicted of a felony for aiding Warren's flight from justice, prior to his arrest.

At the Water Management Board meeting in July, after intense questioning by opposition counsel, as well as members of the Board, Mr. Jeffs refused to answer any questions concerning the number of inhabitants of the FLDS compound or its need for the additional water. The Board, in frustration at Mr. Jeffs lack of candor, deferred a decision on the application until the next Board meeting in October, in order to obtain additional details in support of the FLDS application.

While Mr. Jeffs refused to answer any questions regarding the number of people residing at the compound, the maximum occupancy supported by its current wastewater permits is 126. Mr. Jeffs is seeking to withdraw 200 gallons per minute, and fill a 250,000 gallon water tower, for a maximum of 126 people. By contrast, the Southern Black Hills Water System, also located near Pringle, serves 350 customers over several square miles, with a 100 gallon per minute well and a 125,000 gallon water tower. The incongruity of Mr. Jeffs request is staggering. Without an established need, the FLDS application cannot possibly be in the best interest of the people of Custer County and South Dakota. In addition, there is concern whether Mr. Jeffs is even properly authorized to conduct such business on behalf of the United Order of South Dakota.

As a taxpayer in Custer County, I own a home one mile from the FLDS compound. I am writing to request that you examine the details of this application and require the FLDS to establish a compelling need for this additional water that is in the best interests of the people of South Dakota. Absent that need, your duty requires you to deny this application. Please bring the weight of your Board to bear to prevent the unnecessary and wasteful allocation of the natural resources of South Dakota.

"The Salvation of the State is Watchfulness in the Citizen" – H. B. Alexander

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

David Horner

Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 11:19 AM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: #2730-2

-----Original Message-----

From: Lori [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 11:16 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: #2730-2

Dear Eric,
Please don't approve the new well for the FLDS group.
They are a cult that we don't want to encourage.
They have done nothing to reach out to the rest of the community, hiding their activities.
Thanks,
Jon and Lori Gjording
Custer, SD

God Bless America

Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 2:27 PM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: Water permit application 2730-2

From: Kyran Mittelstadt [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 2:23 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water permit application 2730-2

Eric, please forward this message to the Water Management Board.

We as land and property owners near the Pringle, SD area do not feel that it is in our interest, nor the rest of the public, to allow the FLDS to acquire more water from the state.

Kyran and Nancy Mittelstadt

[REDACTED]
Custer, SD

Jacobson, Gail

From: Dave [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 5:02 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric; Dave
Subject: Water Permit Application-2730-2

Dear Sir,

I would be grateful if you would forward this e-mail to the Water Management Board of S.Dakota in connection with water application request No. 2730-2..

I have been notified of an application by the FLDS compound at Pringle to hugely increase their water extraction and storage. I wish to object strongly to this for the following reasons:

A. We are living in a fragile environment of water scarcity and extracting large disproportionate water volumes is not in the interests of Custer County.

B. Granting such a request is the same as the County and State implicitly supporting the growth of a community who are persistently delinquent on taxes, who have destroyed the environment they occupy, who infringe child and female human rights ,who have no regard for their neighbours as evidenced by their past 24hour construction habits and who refuse to state how many people live in their compound now or how many they plan to import in the future.

C. There are no grounds to treat anybody advantageously relative to the other inhabitants of Custer County. The water supply and infrastructure provided recently by SBHWS is adequate for its other users and to allow one group of people to extract water at such a huge rate and volume bears no resemblance to the average use by other law and tax abiding members of Custer County.

Yours sincerely

David Rogers

Pringle ,South Dakota.

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device

Jacobson, Gail

From: L & C Van Zetten [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 1:25 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water Permit application No. 2730-2
Attachments: FLDS water permit.docx

Mr. Gronlund - please forward the attached e-mail regarding the subject application to the Water Management Board on our behalf.

Claudia, Larry Van Zetten, Custer County residents

E Email Eric Gronlund

Water Rights Program [REDACTED]

Forward msg to Water Mgmt Bd

Water Permit application No. 2730-2

The State Water Withdrawal Regulations state that when considering whether to grant a water use permit, two of the considerations are: the proposed use is beneficial and the use is in the public's interest.

It has been reported in the *Custer County Chronicle* that at a recent hearing in Pierre requesting a new well for the compound – permit application number shown above, Seth Jeffs did not answer the Board's question as to how many people live in the compound. If the FLDS representative is NOT answering the Board's questions, how can the Board legitimately grant the permit? The phrase...if you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to hide applies in this issue.

To provide additional information about this property...in March 2004 Custer County Planning issued a building permit for the subject property near Pringle. The stated reason for the permit was for a lodge to be used as a corporate retreat – 7 rooms to house 14 people. A play with words without the truth provided.

Even if Seth Jeffs did answer the Board's pointed question about the number of people living in the compound, along with other very relevant questions, their previous record with Custer County does not indicate truthfulness when specifics are requested.

Further, we see no means for this additional permit to be in the public's interest. Detrimental is more likely the case to the property owners surrounding the compound. Initially, the compound was issued a building permit for a retreat for 14 people. Now the number is undisclosed. No one knows how many people are located at this property and the amount of water needed in the future, and therein is one of the problems surrounding this sect.

Deny this permit request for increasing the pumping capability of the compound on the grounds that answers were not provided to meet the Board's criteria for approving same.

Claudia and Larry Van Zetten – Custer County Residents

Gronlund, Eric

From: Bart Ender [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2015 8:11 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: permit application #2730-2

Mr. Gronlund-

I will be the first to admit I do not live in the area around the FLDS compound at Pringle. I do know, however, that *the effects of their lifestyle* are not limited to just inside their fences. Allowing a group that maintains unlawful practices to expand into the area is tacit approval- something I feel would be a bad idea unless we want to open up the area to more who share that philosophy.

For that reason, I would urge the resource board to deny the water permit for the FLDS compound.

Thank you,

Cabot Irvine
Rapid City SD
[REDACTED]

Gronlund, Eric

From: David Frankel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2015 11:05 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: water permit application number 2730-2

Hello,

Please forward this message to the Water Management Board concerning water permit application number 2730-2.

I am resident in Custer County.

I object to the increase in water requested by the FLDS in Pringle because (1) the FLDS and its representative Seth Jeffs has not been forthcoming about their plans or activities at their compound and secretiveness about such details should be grounds for denying the permit application; (2) water is precious and should not be allocated to a property, project or group without full disclosure of all material facts; (3) the FLDS at Pringle have not been good neighbors - they have over-utilized public resources such as the roads in the area to the detriment of other local residents; and (4) there is no reason why the FLDS at Pringle should have more access to water than any other property of similar size in terms of acres and they already have more access to water than properties of equal size.

Sincerely,

David Frankel
[REDACTED]

Buffalo Gap, SD 57722

Gronlund, Eric

From: MAP Ranch [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2015 2:30 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Permit app #2730-2

Please forward to WATER MANAGEMENT BOARD

Dear Mr. Gronlund,

I am against allowing the FLDS (aka United Order of South Dakota) to acquire any additional water rights for their compound down by Pringle – period. Their current system should be enough for the size of their land. If they need additional water let them haul it like many many other land owning residents must do. Water is scarce enough in the Black Hills with the amount they are asking for - it's a huge opportunity to waste it among other things – what about the next drought?

VOTE NO and Against any approval – it is not in our public interest.

Sincerely,

Anita R. Pease

[REDACTED]
Custer, SD

Gronlund, Eric

From: Karen Parry [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2015 3:53 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water Permit Application 2730-2

Eric, would you please forward this message to the SD Water Management Board? Thanks, Karen Parry

Dear Members of the SD Water Management Board,

In reference to water permit application number 2730-2 submitted by the United Order of SD & FLDS, I strongly encourage you to deny the request to drill a new well and increase the capacity of the water system for what appears to be a very high-density population for the FLDS land size.

Compared to the water capacity of Southern Black Hills Water System for number of customers and land acreage, the FLDS request is not a reasonable request for the type of land use appropriate for this area and in respect to the surrounding pre-existing landowners. Further, the refusal of the applicant to disclose the number of people at the FLDS site and its projected population, activities, and purposes as requested by your Board is not consistent with our SD values of honesty and transparency. The illegal practices of the FLDS in other states and their lack of consideration for their current neighbors in our southern Black Hills are additional indicators that it would be unwise to facilitate the FLDS expansion at this site by approving this permit.

In the best interest of SD's limited water resources, the surrounding landowners, and preventing future problems created by this high-density settlement, I trust you will deny application 2730-2.

Sincerely,
Karen Parry
[REDACTED]
Rapid City SD

Gronlund, Eric

From: Carole Qualm [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2015 5:36 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: *water permit application number 2730-2*

please Do not allow the FLDS to acquire more water from the state. This is not in the best interest of the residents of South Dakota.

Sincerely,
Carole Qualm

Jacobson, Gail

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2015 9:40 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: FLDS water application

Mr. Gronlund,

Please add my name to the list of taxpayers in South Dakota requesting that the water application by the FLDS be denied. I believe this request is to go to the Water Management Board and the water permit application number is 2730-2. I personally believe we do not know all that is happening in this community and I would hate to see more taxpayer money being spent on things that may promote illegal activity.

Thank you for listening to my request.

Sincerely,

Linda Schilling

[REDACTED]
Rapid City, SD 57701
[REDACTED]

Jacobson, Gail

From: Carol Jorgensen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2015 10:37 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: water permit application number 2730-2

Please forward this message to the Water Rights Program:
PLEASE DENY THIS PERMIT – IT IS NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

*I am a resident of Custer, SD.
There has been no way to validate the number of people who live on this property.
I do not understand why they need more water for the size of the property.
Water is a precious commodity.*

The secretiveness of the FLDS compound south of Custer is very concerning to all of us.
I am concerned for the welfare and safety of some of the residents there.

The very idea of a “compound” has very negative connotations.
A **compound** is a type of fortification made up of walls or fences surrounding several buildings in the center of a large piece of land. Compounds can be designed to double as living spaces and military structures in the middle of hostile territory or as a military area within a country's territory; they are also used by the extremely wealthy, powerful, paranoid or criminal to protect against threats to themselves or their property.

By the definition above, the FLDS site seems, indeed, to be a compound. Third parties are not allowed into the site without an escort and it does not appear that all people inside the compound are free to come and go. Bringing more people into the “compound” would seem to me **NOT TO BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.**

Jacobson, Gail

From: Robert Phares [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2015 10:44 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water Permit 2730-2

I am opposed to granting this application. FLDS should not be supported because of its treatment of underage girls. Please forward my position to the Water management Board.

Thanks,
Robert Phares
Hot Springs

Jacobson, Gail

From: Nathan Schwandt [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2015 11:46 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water permit application #2730-2

Mr Gronlund: Please forward this message to the Water Management Board.

Dear water Management Board:

Please reject the Water permit application #2730-2. It is not in the best interest of the state and our community to allow the FLDS to acquire more water for their cult.

Nathan W Schwandt

Jacobson, Gail

From: Carolyn Terrill [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2015 3:41 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water Permit application number 2730-2

Please forward to Water Management Board.

I do not believe that letting the FLDS acquire more water rights is in the public interest because of their secrecy about the number of people living there and *secrecy about future plans needing more water*. From the reports that I have read, they are not good neighbors--*even the presence of a guard house raises uncertainty--and then there are the legal problems and convictions from other compounds.*

Please vote against granting the application.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Terrill

[REDACTED]
Hot Springs, SD 57747

In light of the above, I would like to go on the record as being firmly opposed, with reason, to this compound receiving a permit for another well..

Thank you for your consideration ,
Robin Kienitz

[REDACTED]
Black Hawk, SD
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Jacobson, Gail

From: Jeanann Goss [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 9:34 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: FLDS

There is going to be a large influx of FLDS heading your way if you grant them additional water. The faithful in the UO have been told to be prepared to move. In the UO group are numerous children who have been taken from their parents.

They have been extinguished parents and having those parents sign their minor children over to a "worthy" family.

Jeanann Goss

Sent from my iPhone

Jacobson, Gail

From: Don and Cindy Walker [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 11:19 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: FDLS application #2730-2.

Dear Sir;

Please forward to Water Management Board:

I am writing concerning the application by FDLS seeking more water rights. application number 2730-2. I don't believe this is in the best interest for South Dakota. Water is a precious resource to S. D. FDLS will not disclose their population, practices, or access to the compound. This is a cult. Why should South Dakota give them any water rights?

*Concerned.
Don and Cynthia Walker*

Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:50 AM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: Water Permit Application 2730-2
Attachments: CRR Water issue.pdf

From: thomas carbone [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:49 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water Permit Application 2730-2

Eric, I'm a landowner in Canyon Rim Ranch. Please forward my opposition to permit request 2730-2 to the Water Management Board. I have included the text below in the attached pdf. Please let me know if you need anything else/more for this to be effective.

To: South Dakota Water Management Board
5

9/28/1

Re: Water Permit Application 2730-2

The water permit application 2730-2 to be considered by the Water Management Board on October 14, 2015 concerns me greatly. I do not believe it would be in the best interest of good standing South Dakota tax payers. It seems to me that until you can ascertain the need for the water it should be denied. When requesting access and use of public domain (in this case water) it is the public's right to know why and for what use. There should be no secrets. It is incomprehensible to me how the Water Management Board can even consider approval without even the basic questions being answered. If there are shenanigans in play here and the Water Management Board approves the permit then they are part and parcel to those maleficence's.

The simple comparison between this permits request and the current capacity of the entire Southern Black Hills Water System should ring alarm bells. I would expect the Board to do its due diligence and determine to what extent the need exists and the purpose for this public domain resource - anything less would be aiding and abetting the requester.

Thomas Carbone
Landowner/Taxpayer
Custer County SD

Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 2:42 PM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: Compound water permit

From: Paul Meier [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 2:41 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Compound water permit

This is to express my concerns regarding permit application #2730-2. Could you please forward this to the water management board prior to their October meeting.

I am a homeowner in the Pringle area and would encourage you to NOT grant any further water rights to any group that is not forthcoming with answers as to the reason for the increase and the number of people currently in residence or projected to be in residence on any property.

Thank you for your service and consideration of my concerns.

Paul Meier

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Jacobson, Gail

From: LaRee Mayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 4:26 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: water permit application 2730-2

Please forward this letter to the Water Management Board. Re: Permit App. # 2730-2

The FDLS compound near Pringle, SD, has been shrouded in secrecy since it opened. The FDLS was found to abuse youthful member in Texas. The leadership of the compound in Custer County is the same group of men. This compound cannot stand close scrutiny, and to allow it to grow in secrecy will only allow future bad acts to continue. The board manages life when it manages water.

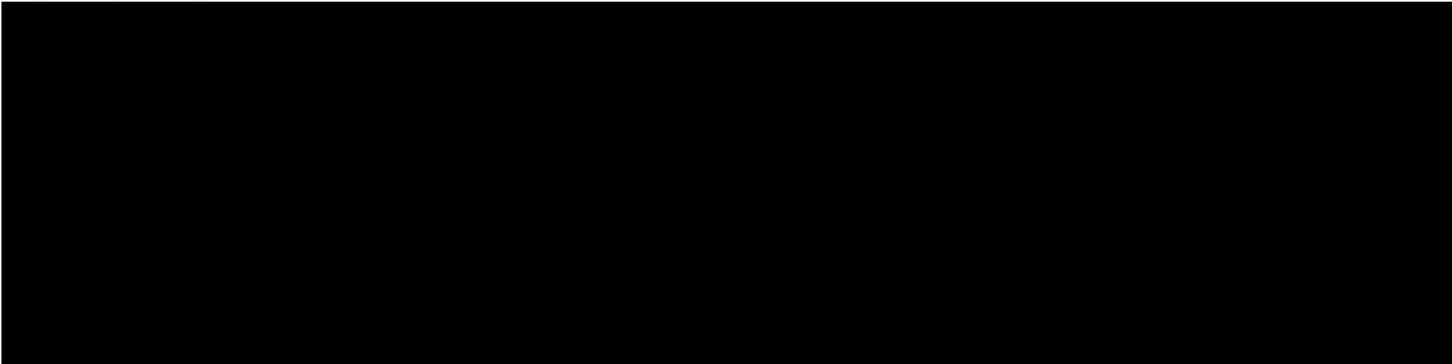
Terry and LaRee Mayes
Rapid City, SD

Jacobson, Gail

From: Dawn Marso [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 4:28 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: water permit application number 2730-2

Eric, I have read the editorial in the Rapid City Journal written by Mike Fleming . I would like you to please share my email with the Water Management Board. I am totally against the permit from the FLDS to drill a new well. As I understand it, Seth Jeffs has testified on behalf of the permit approval and in spite of many questions , Seth would not provide any information about how many people live in the compound or about what goes on in the compound. Of course he would not provide any of this information as what is happening in this and the other compounds is absolutely sick!! It is unbelievable that this type of behavior is allowed to happen in the United States and in South Dakota! I challenge each member of the Water Management Board to read the book written by Rebecca Musser.. "The Witness Wore Red: The 19th Wife who brought Polygamous Cult Leaders to Justice". Musser wrote the memoir in 2013 along with author Bridget Cook. After years of sexual abuse by Jeffs, she finally escaped the compound, testified against FLDS prophet Warren Jeffs a total of 20 times. Musser is the widow of deceased prophet Rulon Jeffs, making over 63 other women her "sister-wives, a designation given to the polygamous wives of one man in the FLDS. Musser's sister , Elissa Wall has also written a memoir "Stolen Innocence". Wall had to marry her own cousin at the age of 14. I believe that reading "The Witness Wore Red" is essential to help the Board with their decision. South Dakota does not want or need any more people arriving in this Compound. Thank you .

--
Dawn Marso



Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:00 AM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: Letter Concerning Water Permit Application Number 2730-2
Attachments: 20150930 Letter to Water Management Board.docx

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Fleming [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:52 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Letter Concerning Water Permit Application Number 2730-2

Eric,

Please forward the attached letter to the members of the Water Management Board. It concerns water permit application number 2730-2 from the United Order of South Dakota.

Thank you,

Mike Fleming

September 30, 2015

South Dakota Water Management Board

Dear Water Management Board Members,

I am writing in response to Water Permit Application number 2730-2 from the United Order of South Dakota. I was present at the Water Management Board hearing in July when the permit application was discussed. I testified against approval of the permit, and presented petitions from area residents expressing similar opinions. The petitions were not accepted.

I still believe that the permit should be denied because it is not in the public interest. However, I contend that the public interest argument extends far beyond a possible diminishment in water levels for springs and wells in the vicinity. It is not in the public interest for the state of South Dakota to provide additional water to a sect of polygamist pedophiles.

The United Order of South Dakota is not as innocuous as its name implies. It represents the South Dakota contingent of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The FLDS is not a group of would be saints. As an organization, the FLDS is well known for polygamy, arranged marriages between underage girls and old men, child rape, and the expulsion of young men who may prove attractive to young women. People who think that the Custer County FLDS community is different, and consists of only benevolent members, are either kidding themselves, or are choosing to be ignorant.

A truck driver from Hot Springs was making deliveries of gravel to the compound a few years ago. Normally he was paid by a person, or by \$100 bills left in an envelope for him near the front gate. One time he was not paid in person or by envelope, and went looking for someone who could pay him. He unexpectedly stumbled upon a room full of pregnant girls, before being intercepted, paid, and escorted from the compound.

Someone who owns a cabin very close to the compound was surprised one day by two young men who had just been expelled from the compound. He helped them contact friends in North Dakota who came to pick up the ex-cult members.

The people who live in the compound are not good neighbors. When they are in construction mode, they operate day and night, running heavy equipment that is very noisy, and illuminating the area with bright lights after dark.

The FLDS has applied for a permit to drill a new well, which would increase its capability to pump water from 100 gallons per minute to 200 gpm, to replace a 30,000 gallon underground water tank with an above ground tank of at least 250,000 gallons, and to replace existing main lines with 6" and 8" lines. By contrast, the Southern Black Hills Water System, which services 350 customers, has a 100 gpm well, a 125,000 gallon storage tank, and its largest main lines are 6". The FLDS compound is 140 acres. The SBHWS territory covers many square miles.

The FLDS compound near Pringle appears to be preparing for more members. Many of these could be coming from the Yearning for Zion FLDS temple in El Dorado Texas, which was closed by the state of Texas. Denial of the latest FLDS well permit application by the Water Management Board could prevent a significant increase in population in the Pringle compound.

Assuming that the FLDS is just another religious group, such as Hutterites, Mennonites, or even Mormons, is not reasonable. Predicting future water usage in the FLDS compound by extrapolating numbers of inhabitants from sewage permits, and by estimating acres of land that could be cultivated by looking at Google Earth maps, is not acceptable. The FLDS situation in Pringle is unique, and this permit application warrants more scrutiny than other applications.

The Water Management Board has a choice. You can decide that the FLDS permit application is just a normal application from another religious group, or you can recognize this permit application for what it really is – a means to increase the population of a compound of pedophiles. I urge you to deny this permit application on the grounds that approving it is clearly not in the public interest.

Sincerely,

Mike Fleming

[REDACTED]

Pringle, South Dakota 57773

[REDACTED]

Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 12:46 PM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: Water Rights Program; Water permit application number 2730-2

From: Lana VunCannon [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 11:33 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water Rights Program; Water permit application number 2730-2

Please forward this message to the Water Management Board. We, Michael, Sr. and Lana VunCannon, land owners in Custer County, are **NOT** in favor of approving the above mentioned water permit application.

We have been Custer County land owners since October, 2002. We have lived through one summer packed and ready to evacuate due to drought and high fire dangers. Water is precious here. We understand that very well. Additionally, we do not approve of the cult activities engaged in by the FLDS group because our county continues to be negatively impacted by their actions. We do not want to create opportunities for them to grow any larger.

Very sincerely,

Michael, Sr. and Lana VunCannon
[REDACTED]
Custer, SD 57730
[REDACTED]

Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:46 AM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: Water Permit Application # 2730-2

-----Original Message-----

From: oonagh wood [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 9:19 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water Permit Application # 2730-2

Eric
Can you please forward this comment to the Water Management Board? Thank you

I am a resident of Custer County and own property in the Southern Black Hills.
I am concerned about the request from the FLDS to double their water supply without any information provided to justify their need for this increase.
If the FLDS is reluctant to explain the basis for their request, the WMB should be equally reluctant to approve it.
I would ask that you reject the application until they provide an explanation as to why, and if, it is necessary. Water is a precious commodity in this area of the Black Hills and all applications should be thoroughly investigated before being approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Oonagh Wood
[REDACTED]
Argyle, SD

Jacobson, Gail

From: Gronlund, Eric
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 1:42 PM
To: Jacobson, Gail
Subject: FW: Water Permit Application #2730-2

From: Baers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 1:37 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water Permit Application #2730-2

Dear Mr. Gronlund,

Please forward this email to all members of the South Dakota Water Management Board. Thank you.

Robert J. Baer

October 1, 2015

South Dakota Water Management Board

Dear Water Management Board Members,

This letter is in opposition of Water Permit Application #2730-2 from the United Order of South Dakota. I am sure the Water Management Board has received many excellent letters stating various views why Water Permit Application #2730-2 should be denied. I would like to make three points that you may not have not heard. Unfortunately the FLDS compound is right across the canyon from where I reside.

First, Seth Jeffs admitted to the Water Board hearing in July 2015 that he is not a resident of the state of South Dakota. Thus, he is an "out-of stater" trying to get our water.

Second, when we built our house in the Black Hills about 9 years ago, for the first year I heard a constant grinding of rocks. I could not figure out what was going on. Then I finally figured it out. The FLDS was building tunnels. Yes, I am sure they have tunnels at the compound.

Third, I found it odd that Peggy Dixon the only female member of the Water Management Board would not be allowed to vote at the October Water Board Meeting concerning the United Order of South Dakota permit application. I realize that she was not at the July hearing. Surely she is capable of reading the minutes from the July hearing and is able to make an informed decision. Also, with the FLDS treatment of women, she should be able to voice her opinion and get the chance to vote.

Please deny Water Permit Application #2730-2 from the United Order of South Dakota, as it is not in the public interest.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Baer

[REDACTED]
Hot Springs, SD 57747
[REDACTED]

Gronlund, Eric

From: Darlene Wulf [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 6:20 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: 2730-2 water permit

Please forward to the proper agency ,water management board,permit 2730-2 my concern, and to deny this permit. I know of a case where a man filled his stock dam with a hose hooked to a hydrant,wasted terrible amount of water. We do not realize what we have until others waste it, then gone for all of us.

Gronlund, Eric

From: Jo Bass [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 1:36 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water Permit Application No. 2730-2
Attachments: Water Board Letter October 6.pdf

Dear Mr. Gronlund-

Please distribute the attached letter to the members of the Water Management Board.

Thank you.

Jo Bass

[REDACTED]

October 6, 2015

South Dakota Water Management Board
c/o Mr. Eric Gronlund
DENR — Water Rights Program
Joe Foss Building
523 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501-3182

SENT VIA EMAIL DIRECTED TO eric.gronlund@state.sd.us

Re: Application # 2730-2

To the Members of the South Dakota Water Management Board:

I am writing about Water Permit Application # 2730-2 submitted by the United Order of South Dakota. I am a resident of Custer County.

I have reviewed many of the statutes, regulations and filed documents posted online on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources website in connection with the application, as well as related media reports.

My understanding is that the current status of the proceedings is that the board will reopen its evidentiary hearing on October 14, for the limited purpose of giving the applicant a further opportunity to present evidence to establish the need for the water they have applied for.

I respectfully request that you consider the following in the course

of your further deliberations on the application:

1) Is it possible to conclude that the statutory standards set forth in Section 46-1-4 have been met when the “manager” of the water system has reportedly indicated that he does not know how many people are being served? Which means he has been “managing” it without knowing how many water users there are (and, presumably, his predecessor managers have done the same)? That statutory provision reads as follows:

“46-1-4. Beneficial use of water resources - Prevention of waste - Right to water from natural stream or watercourse. It is hereby declared that because of conditions prevailing in this state the general welfare requires that the water resources of the state be put to beneficial use to the fullest extent of which they are capable, and that **the waste or unreasonable method of use of water be prevented**, and that the conservation of such water is to be exercised with a view to the reasonable and beneficial use thereof in the interest of the people **and for the public welfare**. The right to water or to the use or flow of water in or from any natural stream or watercourse in this state is and shall be limited to such water as shall be reasonably required for the beneficial use to be served, and such right does not and shall not extend to the waste or unreasonable use or unreasonable method of diversion of water.” (emphasis added).

I think a water manager who does not know how many water users there are cannot be using water in a manner to prevent waste or in the interest of the people and for the public welfare.

2) Is it appropriate to permit farming of pecans, a crop requiring vast amounts of water, in Western South Dakota? Does the applicant raise pecans or have future plans to do so? Does the applicant intend to raise crops grown for sale? A September 9 press release from the US Department of Labor (Release No. 15-

1660-DEN) reported that its Wage and Hour Division found that the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and certain of its leaders violated various labor laws in connection with their 2012-2013 pecan harvest. The DOL took multiple enforcement actions, including seeking \$1.9 million in civil money penalties. The applicant for this water permit is a common law trust that, pursuant to its written Declaration of Trust, is established as a religious order to “preserve and advance the religious doctrines and goals of The Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.” In light of that fact, it is particularly appropriate to determine what crops the applicant intends to water—and perhaps also wise to consider prohibiting irrigation of pecans altogether.

3) At a minimum, I think the application should be supported by sworn testimony and/or a written affidavit **provided by the applicant** confirming (a) the number of inhabitants using the water for residential uses now and projected to be using it in the future, (b) the number and type of livestock whose needs are met using the water now and projected to be met using it in the future, and (c) the types of crops and number of acres being irrigated using the water now and projected to be irrigated using it in the future.

4) In the absence of that factual supporting information, I think the application should be denied and the board should then begin proceedings to cancel the applicant’s existing permits.

5) The application should not be approved on the basis of DENR usage estimates based on unsupported assumptions about the actual number of residents and the acres under irrigation and/or unsupported projections of future needs. It is not DENR’s responsibility to build a case for the applicant. So far, the applicant has simply said we need more water. That should not be enough.

I am certain the board has heard from many South Dakotans about their concerns about the growing presence of the FLDS in Custer County. I share their concerns but I think the water application process can be concluded on the basis of the evidence submitted—and, more importantly, not submitted—by the applicant.

Thank you for your service on the Water Management Board.

Jo Bass


Gronlund, Eric

From: Alan Kegel [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 3:17 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water Management Board - re Permit Hearing: Application #2730-2
Attachments: WMB re Application 2730-2.pdf

Dear Mr. Gronlund;

Please, forward this letter, expressing my grave concern, to the South Dakota Water Management Board regarding the aforementioned application, #2730-2, at once, so they'll have it in their possession for circumspect contemplation in advance of the October 14, 2015 board meeting regarding deliberation of same. Thanking you, in advance.

Regards,

Alan Kegel

Dear South Dakota Water Board Members:

As a concerned citizen and property owner of Custer County, SD I am writing to demand that you DENY and REJECT the aforementioned well permit Application #2730-2 brought before the WMB by the FLDS cult, otherwise identified by pretense as the United Order of South Dakota and represented by various persons including Seth Jeffs, brother of pedophile and convicted child rapist Warren Jeffs, and others who may be involved.

The FLDS polygamist cult of Custer County, led jointly by Seth Jeffs and Warren Jeffs from his Texas prison cell, has been characterized by the FBI as an organized crime operation that engages in wholesale pedophilia, preying on children, raping and impregnating pubescent girls, along with a host of other criminal activities that essentially constitute sexual slavery and perhaps sexual tourism for church elders visiting various of the cult's compounds.

I passionately believe that by awarding the sought after well permit you will not only validate the offensive and deviant sexual practices of this criminally reprehensible enterprise but will, in effect, come to be in league with their perverse abuse of women and children, thereby supporting and perpetuating the cancer that covertly crept into South Dakota by omission and misrepresentation of their true identity and now cloaked in the thin facade of religion.

I find it startling that the South Dakota Water Management Board, or any other governing entity, would knowingly entertain any such request, given the fact that this group practices any number of activities that are either illegal or criminal under codified law and offend the moral sensibilities of most of the citizens of the state and is being investigated and prosecuted by the FBI and Justice Departments of several states as a criminal enterprise!

You have an obligation to help protect, or at least shield the citizens of South Dakota from anyone or organization that engages in: polygamist marriage, pedophilia, organized exploitation of underage girls, sexual enslavement of minors, sexual victimization, ritualistic rape of helpless victims, grooming of children for sexual

predation, sexual tourism, etc. What makes this even more repugnant is their entrenched perversity is done in the name of God!

You cannot allow this malignancy to fester in Custer County: you must reject application 2730-2 so they cannot they expand their activities and transport more reprobates into the Black Hills. They don't respect rule of law, they don't pay taxes until threatened by legal action, they live clandestinely, operate under the cover of darkness, they are not good citizens and they do not represent the social and moral good we all expect in our neighbors.

There was a time I didn't feel so strongly about this group, basically "live and let live" but that all began to change when the criminal activities of Warren Jeffs were eventually exposed, more so when he became a fugitive from justice and was finally apprehended (reportedly after being secretly hidden by permit applicant Seth Jeffs in the Custer County FLDS compound) and convicted of crimes against children. I cannot abide the FLDS: neither can you.

CNN has recently published a number of stories that further expose both Jeffs and the FLDS cult he controls; they're sobering, please, explore them.

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/09/30/us/polygamist-flds-warren-jeffs-update/index.html>

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/09/30/us/warren-jeffs-son-speaks-out/index.html>

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/09/29/us/warren-jeffs-children-allegations/index.html>

<http://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2015/09/28/this-is-life-lisa-ling-season-2-warren-jeffs-clip-1.cnn>

<http://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2015/09/28/this-is-life-lisa-ling-season-2-warren-jeffs-clip-2.cnn>

<http://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2015/09/28/this-is-life-lisa-ling-season-2-warren-jeffs-clip-3.cnn>

<http://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2015/09/24/warren-jeffs-children-flds-lisa-ling-orig.cnn>

We are all counting on you to make sure the Black Hills is protected from an expansion of the deviant activity at the Custer County FLDS Compound.

Sincerely,

Alan Kegel

Gronlund, Eric

From: Brenda Nicholson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 9:26 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Pringle FLDS Compound: Water Vote

Hello,

My name is Brenda Nicholson, and I left the FLDS about 3 1/2 years ago. I saw the article concerning this request and have been trying to figure out how I can add my voice to the issue. So here I am.

I went to school with Seth Jeffs, and his second wife is my sister-in-law. Having come from inside this group I can assure you that they absolutely are not just innocent people trying to live their religion. They have been removing children from their biological parents for years now - in fact, at the time of the raid on the Texas YFZ Ranch in 2008, there were many children there who had been taken from both of their biological parents. At that point in time this wasn't as widely practiced as it has been over the last few years. Now there are hundreds of children who have been taken from their parents. My concern is that they are going to be brought to this compound in Pringle.

The things that are being done to families in that group will have long-lasting and serious implications. Unfortunately, the states of Utah and Arizona continue to turn a blind eye to the crimes of this cult. According to what I understand this is greatly due to the fact that those states have high populations of Mormons. (Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or LDS.) The mainstream LDS, or Mormons, follow the same teachings, scriptures and ideas, except for the fact that the FLDS (Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) continue to follow all of the fundamentals that Joseph Smith, Jr., Brigham Young, and other early day leaders taught - including polygamy. Anything that is done to stop the FLDS will set a precedent that could negatively effect the LDS. This is, as I said, my opinion. But since I can't think of any other reason for them to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to the abuses that are being done, it seems reasonable that this could be a factor.

This is very disturbing to me. Religious freedom was never intended to be an umbrella of protection that organizations can hide under and do anything they want in the name of God. I assure you, people are being hurt inside this cult. If not physically (but I think that is happening also) for sure emotionally and psychologically. Because of the abuse and harm I witnessed when I was a part of that cult, I have a different perspective than many people. I am doing all that I can to be an advocate and a voice for those who have no voice. Those trapped by a belief in a cruel and manipulative god. Among those are many members of my family.

I urge you to consider my plea to not give them another place to hide away and commit crimes against the most innocent - the children. You might be well served to go back into the archives of April 2008 and watch what results when you allow a cult to build a compound inside your borders. The people you see will just be strangers to you, but to me they are family. They were being hurt by their leaders, and ended up being returned to their abusers. Please do whatever you can to help stop them. Keep the pressures up so they can't settle in, build, strengthen and regroup. Anything that you can do will be a power in protecting innocence. If enough of us put an effort into it, we can make a difference.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Brenda Nicholson

Gronlund, Eric

From: Jeanann Goss [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 7:00 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: FLDS

I would hate for Custer County to end up like Texas and be over run with FLDS. At the time the children were removed the majority were living in the ranch with neither of their biological parents. The parents had been deemed unworthy and the kids were being cared for by a "more worthy" person.

Jeanann Goss

Sent from my iPhone

Gronlund, Eric

From: Dawn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2015 1:19 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: Water Permit 2730-2 Input

I am concerned with the water and septic use of such a large compound as is being developed near Pringle.

Our water resources need to be protected for all who live here in the Black Hills area. Other "systems" where water is used and later treated in a septic/sanitation process is carefully monitored for public and wildlife safety. It is my understanding, oversight is required to monitor the proper installation, treatment, and maintenance of such systems for such a number of persons as this. As far as I am able to determine, any verification of stated volumes, condition, maintenance, or other "self-reported" information has not be verified and published as verified by our regulating departments.

If our State resources are not yet able to properly oversee such a large "development" either in manpower or current regulations, please delay any approvals until sufficient groundwork is in place within our State departments. It would seem prudent to proceed at a slower pace than overwhelm our staff and allow an overuse of our resources.

Thank you for your time regarding this matter.

Sincerely,
Pam Frink

[REDACTED]

Gronlund, Eric

From: Barton and Lois Adriaan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 3:05 PM
To: Gronlund, Eric
Subject: water permit application # 2730-2

To Members of SD Water Management Board,

I have concerns about the above water permit in Custer county. My family owns the Spring on the Hill Ranch about 2 miles south east of the site of the above proposed well. We have a well for the cattle run on the ranch and am concerned with the amount of water that is proposed to be pumped. That amount of water is either for a moderate sized city or an extensive irrigation project but would be upstream from our well and while not professional hydrologists, we are concerned about our water supply being diminished.

If the water will be used for household use, we also have concerns about a moderate sized city being on septic tanks and ground water contamination, although I realize that is not your board's focus.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Barton Adrian
[REDACTED]

Gronlund, Eric

From: Duvall, Ron
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 8:19 AM
To: Gronlund, Eric; Goodman, Jeanne
Cc: Smith, Kim (DENR)
Subject: FW: FLDS well

FYI

NOTE: When replying to this email do NOT click the person's [<mailto:myname@email.com>] address since this may result in your reply being undeliverable. Either copy and paste just the email address (e.g. myname@email.com) or type just the address into your reply message.

-----Original Message-----

From: James Kienitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 11:47 AM
To: DENR INTERNET INFORMATION
Subject: FLDS well

Ladies and gentlemen,

In reviewing today's article in the Rapid City Journal, it is noted that at least some of the letters are addressing the beliefs practiced by this "compound ". Of course it's abominable, but the point is missed in asking you to curtail their practices with the denial of a well permit.

I still stand firmly by my original letter. It is my opinion they don't NEED a third well. They are seriously misusing this valuable resource or have plans to store vast amounts for future use. I speak from the startling parallel to our development (and I'm quite certain we are certainly not unique). We have adequate water and pressure for all residents with judicial management and invaluable assistance from the State to maximize our output from ONE well.

Again, I beg you to consider ALL the populace and our future requirements for this life sustaining resource.

Thank you, Robin Kienitz, 8804 Woodland Dr., Black Hawk. (Woodland Hills) 605-787-6562 . John316jr@rap.midco.net

Sent from my iPad