



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region



IN REPLY REFER TO:

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RECEIVED

AUG 12 2016

WATER RIGHTS
PROGRAM

Jeanne Goodman, Chief Engineer
South Dakota Department of Environment
and Natural Resources
Water Rights Program
Joe Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

AUG 08 2016

RE: Application No. 8226-3

Dear Ms. Goodman:

The Fish and Wildlife Service has received notice that the Chief Engineer has recommended approval of Application No. 8226-3, for Jeffrey Albrecht for 1.78 cfs from two wells located in the S1/2SE1/4 of Section 35, Township 110 North, Range 56 West, and will be constructed in the Vermillion East Fork Aquifer.

The Service is concerned about the impacts on its property interest as the S1/2 of Section 35, Township 110 North, Range 56 West is covered by a wetland easement and is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The easement prohibits the draining of wetlands covered by the easement. Since the Vermillion East Fork Aquifer is an unconfined and surficial ground water system, the easement wetlands may be in direct connection to the aquifer, and pumping may cause them to be drawn down. The proposed well locations are also located within the wetland easement itself.

The Service requests that your office provide us with any analysis done to determine whether this appropriation should be granted, as well as whether this appropriation will impact our wetland easement. The Service reserves the right to provide additional comments or information after review of the analysis and recommendation on this application.

If you have questions or require further information, please contact me at (303) 236-4491.

Sincerely,

Brian S. Caruso
Chief, Water Resources Division

cc: Jeffrey Albrecht
21749 435th Avenue
DeSmet, South Dakota 57231