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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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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 0 8 2016

RE: Application No. 8227-3

Dear Ms. Goodman:

The Fish and Wildlife Service has received notice that the Chief Engineer has recommended approval of Application No. 8227-3, for Dr. Barry Kerkaert for an additional 23.63 acre-feet of water authorized under Water Permit No. 8066-3. The wells are located in the N1/2SW1/4 of Section 16, Township 121 North, Range 47 West, and are located in the Veblen Aquifer.

The Service is concerned about the impacts on its property interest as the N1/2 of Section 16, Township 121 North, Range 47 West is covered by a wetland easement and is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The easement prohibits drainage of the wetlands covered by the easement. Since the Veblen aquifer is surficial in some locations the wetlands may be in contact with the aquifer, and additional pumping may result in drawdown of the wetlands.

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 additional water 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: Dr. Barry Kerkaert
P.O. Box 188
Pipestone, Minnesota 56164