



## City of North Platte

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North Platte, Nebraska 69101  
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January 5, 2007

Tracy Zayac  
Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources  
PO Box 94676  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

Re: MT-9 Transfer permit for the City of North Platte, NE

Dear Ms. Zayac;

We received a copy of your letter to Mr. Jim Hawks dated December 21, 2006. We will attempt to answer your letter in order of the comments you offered. However, we would like to review how we came to this point to begin with.

The City of North Platte has a number of municipal water wells within the corporate limits. Several of these wells have been effected by increased regulation and their use was discontinued due to violation of various new regulations. It is our long range intent to recognize the pattern of increased regulation and have a strategy in place to deal with the likelihood of this increased regulation negatively impacting the continued use of our remaining wells. One option is to identify whether it is possible to have a municipal well field external to the City limits. In the course of this process of identification, we were asked to submit to the General Transfer Permit process, which we have done. However, you have begun to ask us questions that we may not be able to fully answer, since we do not have an identified well field. The work that has been done to date on this Transfer Permit is mere speculation if the well field itself does not produce either the quantity or water quality we need. We cannot even identify whether this proposed well field is capable of doing that unless we do some actual drilling. Along the same line, there is no point on our part to do the actual drilling if your Department is not going to give us the Transfer Permit anyway. If we can get the General Transfer Permit and if we can do some actual drilling, and if we can come to an agreement with the property owner, and if we find sufficient water quantity, and if we find sufficient water quality, then we can probably more realistically answer your questions.

Having framed our position as we see it, we will do the best that we can to answer your questions as follows:

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DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

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1a. We have no intent to convert wells that are in violation to another use. It has been discussed that some wells currently available for potable water use would be converted to irrigation use for parks, especially. We have no formal plans to do so at this time, however.

1b. I'm not sure what existing permits we would operate under. At this point, it would be safe to say that the converted usages would have already been figured into the amounts on the MT-9.

2. We have no idea whether we even have a site yet. However, if a well field site was secured and available, we would expect that we would be fully utilizing the site within 20 years.

3. We do not plan to construct additional wells within town, except replacement wells as old wells are removed from service. We have to keep up with current demand including fire protection so if we lose a well we need to replace it.

The longer it takes to have an identified long range solution the longer it will be before we can begin to exercise the use of that long range solution.

4. The point of the new well field is to have a place to go as old wells are removed from service. The longer a new well field is unavailable the longer it will take to convert to it.

We expect that we will be able to use the identified area as a new well field and have predicated our efforts to that end. However, until and unless we receive approval for the proposed site we will be forced to operate as we have in the past. We hope that you understand our position on this. We have to at least meet the consumptive and fire flow demands we currently have.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Werblow, PE  
City Engineer

Cc: Jim Hawks, City Administrator  
Chris Miller, Miller & Assoc.