

## James Thum

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**From:** Skye Bensel <Skye.Bensel@deq.idaho.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 8:05 AM  
**To:** James Thum  
**Cc:** Lance Holloway; Scott Short; Susan Beattie; Paul Hildebrandt  
**Subject:** RE: Snake River Oil & Gas

**Categories:** Operations & Inspections, Applications / Hearings

Good morning James,

The Department of Environmental Quality, as per [IDAPA 20.07.02.210.07.c](#), has reviewed the Idaho Department of Lands well treatment permit application for well permit number LU60017, dated 04/22/2025.

The review included an evaluation of:

1. The permit application and submitted appendices.
2. The lithology log for the well of interest
3. Other publicly available lithology logs for wells of similar depth in the local area.

Based on the review of these materials, the DEQ concluded that should the activity be conducted as described in the application, State groundwater resources are adequately protected.

It would be helpful for the agency to have a copy of the SOPs which will govern the collection, validation, and reporting of groundwater monitoring data collected for this project, as well as a copy of the identified points of decision which would guide any additional activity at this site.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Best,

Skye Bensel

**Skye Bensel | Water Quality Scientist**  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
Boise Regional Office  
1445 N. Orchard St., Boise, ID 83706  
Office: (208) 373-0426  
<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/>

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**From:** James Thum <jthum@idl.idaho.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 2, 2025 11:50 AM  
**To:** Skye Bensel <Skye.Bensel@deq.idaho.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Snake River Oil & Gas

Hello Skye,

Thanks so much for the update. I will be out of the office Monday through Thursday next week but will be available via email or mobile phone at any time if you or your staff need any additional information for your review.

I really appreciate the assistance and quick response. Have a great weekend as well!

**James Thum**  
**Oil & Gas Program Manager**

Idaho Department of Lands  
300 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
Direct: (208) 334-0243  
Mobile: (208) 912- 5014  
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**From:** Skye Bensel <[Skye.Bensel@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Skye.Bensel@deq.idaho.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 2, 2025 11:21 AM  
**To:** James Thum <[jthum@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:jthum@idl.idaho.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Snake River Oil & Gas

Good morning,

Thank you for sending links to those resources, they are very helpful. I believe we have everything we need for our review now and will complete and send it to you within a week.

Thank you and have a great weekend!

Skye

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**From:** Susan Beattie <[susan.beattie@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:susan.beattie@deq.idaho.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 2, 2025 7:09 AM

**To:** Skye Bensel <[Skye.Bensel@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Skye.Bensel@deq.idaho.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Snake River Oil & Gas

Thank you Skye,

This is very helpful. I should be able to complete my review within a couple of days. How would you like to receive comments? We can do any format from email to memos. I don't envision more than a couple of paragraphs, based on what I have seen so far for this project.

Susan

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**From:** Skye Bensel <[Skye.Bensel@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Skye.Bensel@deq.idaho.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 01, 2025 3:04 PM

**To:** Susan Beattie <[susan.beattie@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:susan.beattie@deq.idaho.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: Snake River Oil & Gas

**Skye Bensel | Water Quality Scientist**

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**From:** James Thum <[jthum@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:jthum@idl.idaho.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:02 PM

**To:** Skye Bensel <[Skye.Bensel@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Skye.Bensel@deq.idaho.gov)>

**Cc:** Scott Short <[Scott.Short@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Scott.Short@deq.idaho.gov)>; Lance Holloway <[Lance.Holloway@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Lance.Holloway@deq.idaho.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Snake River Oil & Gas

Hello Skye,

It's good to "meet" you and thanks for reaching out. Our statutes don't have specific guidelines for timeframes on decisions on applications except to say that applications will be processed "in a timely and efficient manner." (Idaho Code § 47-316 (1)(d)) In addition, Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) and for well treatments are required to be provided to IDWR for comments and recommendations. IDWR is required to provide comments within ten business days, but there is no such requirement for IDEQ. I would like to shoot for May 16<sup>th</sup> for completion of your review but am flexible given the short notice and any undue constraints on staff time.

Regarding the well lithology, the OGCC well file page for the [ML Investments #2-10](#) has some information which may be helpful to you. About halfway down the page is a PDF file labeled "mud log." This is a well cutting sample log that begins just below the 13 3/8-inch conductor casing at approximately 140 feet below the Kelly Bushing (KB) or 120 feet below the ground surface. The samples are taken to a measured depth of 4991 feet, the total drilled depth of the well. There are also several geophysical well logs (Open Hole Logs 1, 2, and 3) that measure the lithological characteristics of the well bore that begin just below the 8 5/8-inch surface casing at approximately 960 feet and go to total depth.

I can be available for a Teams call after 9:30 AM Friday, or Monday morning May 5<sup>th</sup> if you would like to discuss anything pertaining to the application.

Thanks so much for your time. I'm looking forward to working with you and IDEQ on the monitoring plan.

Regards,

**James Thum**  
**Oil & Gas Program Manager**

Idaho Department of Lands  
300 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103  
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**From:** Skye Bensel <[Skye.Bensel@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Skye.Bensel@deq.idaho.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 11:15 AM

**To:** James Thum <[jthum@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:jthum@idl.idaho.gov)>

**Cc:** Scott Short <[Scott.Short@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Scott.Short@deq.idaho.gov)>; Lance Holloway <[Lance.Holloway@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Lance.Holloway@deq.idaho.gov)>

**Subject:** Snake River Oil & Gas

Good morning James,

I am the point of contact for the Snake River Oil & Gas monitoring plan for the Boise Regional DEQ, thank you for your patience on this as we met between Scott Short in the state office, and he communicated this information to us in our regional office here.

We are set to start reviewing the monitoring plan from you all right away, and I wanted to reach out to get a timeline for when you would like our comments back. I know you all need to respond to this decision within 2-4 weeks, and we are ready to put this review on our front burner to assist you on that. What would be the best time for us to finish our review of the monitoring plan?

Additionally, in order to fully understand this well and the project we request a report of the lithology of the well. We do have the information on the casing and depth, and having that lithological component will add confidence to our review of the monitoring plan.

Thank you again for your patience, we look forward to working with you further on this.

Best,

Skye

**Skye Bense | Water Quality Scientist**

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