

STAFF REPORT

July 27, 2000

**00SE #007 – Special Exception to the Flood Area
Construction Regulations to allow water monitoring
structures in the floodway**

ITEM 30

GENERAL INFORMATION:

PETITIONER	Scott Kenner for the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
REQUEST	00SE#007 - Special Exception to the Flood Area Construction Regulations to allow water monitoring structures in the floodway
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Tract M-1 of the NW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 17, T1N, R7E, BHM, Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota
PARCEL ACREAGE	less than .01 acres
LOCATION	On Rapid Creek northeast of the intersection of Magic Canyon Road and Trout Court
EXISTING ZONING	Flood Hazard
SURROUNDING ZONING	
North:	Flood Hazard
South:	Flood Hazard
East:	Flood Hazard
West:	Flood Hazard
PUBLIC UTILITIES	City Sewer and Water
REPORT BY	Randall Nelson and Blaise Emerson

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that Special Exception to the Flood Area Construction Regulations to allow water monitoring structures in the floodway be approved.

GENERAL COMMENTS: This Special Exception request is one of five such applications (see related Staff Reports) to allow the placement of water monitoring structures in the floodway. The structures are being proposed as part of a cooperative project between the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department, the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and the University of South Dakota. Federal grant funding has been secured by these agencies to undertake a three-year study aimed at developing a management plan to ensure the future existence of Rapid City's urban coldwater fishery. According to information provided by the petitioner, recent fish sampling done by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks has indicated a decline in the quality of the fishery. The maintenance of South

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Dakota's only coldwater fishery has significant environmental, recreational and economic importance.

A major component of the three-year study is the installation of five water monitoring stations along Rapid Creek. These stations will consist of a steel box mounted on a wood post. The box will house the necessary water monitoring equipment. The width of the steel box will be four feet with the total height of the box and post being nine feet. According to the petitioner, the water monitoring stations will collect a variety of technical data which will be used to "...quantify the magnitude and the duration of the stormwater events as well as the background water quality conditions in the stream."

This particular Use on Review request is to place the water monitoring station on the west side of Cambell Street, north of the polo fields, near the bike path and south of Rapid Creek.

STAFF REVIEW: Rapid City Municipal Code section 15.32.240-D states that in passing upon applications for special exceptions, the council shall consider twelve factors. Those twelve factors and a discussion of each are listed on the attached memorandum dated July 11, 2000 from Scott Kenner (SDSM&T) and Jack Erickson (SDGFP). Staff has reviewed the memorandum and concurs with the applicant's analysis and conclusions, and therefore recommends approval of the request for the special exception.