



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1301 North Orchard Street, Boise, ID 83706 - P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0098

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DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

July 26, 2004

73-4077

JIM & LOUANNE HESS
PO BOX 1340
CHALLIS ID 83226

RESPONSE DEADLINE
AUGUST 27, 2004

Re: Evidence of Priority Date

Dear Claimant:

The Notice of Claim to a Water Right (claim) identified with the number shown above your name has been filed in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA). The claim indicates your water usage is based on "Beneficial Use" or a "Statutory Claim." Water rights of this type are established by the historic use of water, dating back to when water was first used for the purpose claimed. The date of first use, known as the priority date, has not been confirmed. **Proof must be provided by the claimant supporting the priority date claimed and the historic use of the water.**

Enclosed you will find a computer printout of your claim and the pamphlet entitled "Evidence of Priority." The pamphlet describes the types of evidence required and suggests which documents will fulfill this requirement.

PLEASE NOTE: If no evidence is submitted, IDWR will recommend the SRBA Court decree the claim be disallowed. It will be to your advantage to provide clear and convincing evidence. If you choose to submit statements from individuals as evidence, the statement should be in the form of a notarized affidavit.

Please submit the required evidence supporting the priority date and the historic use by the date shown above, referencing all documents with the corresponding claim number. Send the documents in the enclosed envelope to assure it arrives at the correct location. If you have questions not covered by this letter or the enclosed pamphlet, please contact this office. Our toll free number is 1-800-451-4129 and ask for me or Danni Smith.

If you no longer own the property to which the claim is appurtenant, please forward this correspondence to the present owner, or return it to Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). If you have received this correspondence from the previous owner of the property, it is recommended that you file a Change of Ownership form with IDWR in order to receive future mailings and to participate in the adjudication.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Brown
Sr. Water Resource Agent

Enclosures