



STATE OF IDAHO
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
LAWRENCE G. WASDEN

February 24, 2004

COPY

ANNETTE F AND WESLEY R HAMILTON
626 W 225 S
BLACKFOOT ID 83221

RE: SRBA Claim based on decreed water right No. 27-37 M

Dear Claimant(s):

I am the Deputy Attorney General assigned to represent the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR or the "Department") in Basin 27 in the Snake River Basin Adjudication.

The Department of Water Resources is currently investigating water right claims in Basin 27. IDWR information indicates that your water right claim is based on a water right decreed in *Stevens v. Eastern Idaho Water Co.*, Judgment Book 1, pp. 106-117 (Bingham County, Idaho August 1, 1891), to James Welch. This water right was decreed for 400 inches (8.0 cfs) with a March 20, 1886, priority date. This water right was numbered sometime after the decree by IDWR as water right no. 27-37.

The Department has received multiple claims to this water right totaling more than 8.0 cfs. In order to make a complete and accurate recommendation of your water right, each element of the water right must be proven. The Department needs information that shows you are a successor to the original James Welch water right. This could be established through deeds or other conveyance documents that show you own a portion of the original water right.

Please provide this information by March 26, 2004, to Cindy Bird at the Soda Springs Office for the Idaho Department of Water Resources. You can contact her at 208-547-3993. If you have any further questions regarding this matter, you can contact Cindy or you can contact me directly at 208-327-5404.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Candice M. McHugh".

Candice M. McHugh
Deputy Attorney General
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources

c: electronically Cindy Bird, IDWR



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

15 West Center Street, Soda Springs, ID 83276

Phone: (208) 547-3993 Fax: (208) 547-3939 Web Site: www.idwr.state.id.us

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

9 December 2003

Wesley Hamilton
626 West 225 South
Blackfoot, ID 83221

Re: Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA)
Claim 27-37M

COPY

Subject: EVIDENCE OF PRIORITY DATE

Response Date: 8 January 2004

Dear Claimant(s):

The Idaho Department of Water Resources has begun its SRBA claims review in Basin 27. The Notice(s) of Claim identified with the number shown above, has been filed in the SRBA.

The referenced claim is not a decreed right based on Welch Irrigation. In the Stevens' 1891 decree the Welch water was decreed as mining, not irrigation and cannot be converted to irrigation. The mining purpose is non-consumptive while, irrigation is consumptive. Therefore, it can only be recommended to the Court as a beneficial use claim. However, before we can prepare the recommendation, we need evidence to support when the water was put to beneficial use for irrigation.

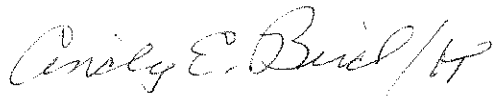
It is important that each element of the Notice be substantiated. For claims for irrigation, the evidence should tend to show that diversion works were in place, that they were capable of diverting the claimed diversion rate, and that the diverted water was beneficially used on the entire claimed place of use on or before the claimed priority date.

For your reference, I have enclosed the pamphlet entitled "**Evidence of Priority**". The pamphlet describes the types of evidence required and suggests which documents will fulfill this requirement. While I encourage you to read the entire pamphlet, I direct your attention to the two sections entitled "**What Kind of Evidence is Required**" and "**Some examples of Documents Which May Be Evidence of the Priority Date**".

If we do not hear from you by the above referenced response date we will recommend to the Court that this claim be disallowed.

If you have any questions not covered by this letter, please feel free to contact me at 547-3993.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy E. Bird/H".

Cindy E. Bird
Adjudication Bureau

CEB/bjp
Enclosure: Evidence of Priority Brochure