

May 14, 2001

29-10071
STANLEY O THARP
PO BOX 2737
POCATELLO ID 83206

RE: EVIDENCE OF PRIORITY

Dear Claimant (s):

The Idaho Department of Water Resources has recently begun its water right review in Basin 29. The Notice(s) of Claim identified with the number shown above in the "address" label and at the "end" of this letter has been filed in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA). The Notice indicates water usage is based on "Beneficial Use". Water rights of this type are established by the historical use of water, dating back to when water was first used for the purpose claimed, at or on the place of use identified on the Notice. The date the water was first put to use, known as the priority date, has not been confirmed by a license, Decree, or Permit. For this reason, proof must be provided supporting the priority date. As the claimant, you are responsible for submitting the necessary proof to support the priority date.

It is important that each element of the Notice be substantiated. For instance, regarding 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 provided a printout of your Notice and 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"**.

JUN 15 2001

It is our goal to recommend historical water rights within the Snake River Basin as accurately as possible. Field exams to verify other items of the Notice have been or soon will be conducted by Department personnel.

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**The Department can not recommend the Notice be decreed by the court if no
evidence of a priority date is submitted.**
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Please submit the documentation supporting the priority date by **June 15, 2001,**
referencing all documents with the corresponding Notice number. If you have any
questions not covered by this letter or the enclosed pamphlet, please feel free to contact
me at 525-7161.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig L. Saxton
Water Resource Agent
Adjudication Bureau

Enclosure: Brochure on "Evidence of Priority"
Notice of Claim 29-10071