



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

Samuel Tad Thyberg
216 South 550 West
Blackfoot, ID 83221

Re: Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA)
Claim 27-10357

Subject: EVIDENCE OF PRIORITY DATE

COPY

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.

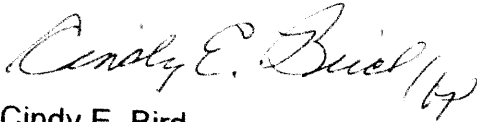
It is important that each element of the Notice be substantiated. For claims for irrigation, the evidence should tend to show that diversion works were in place, that they were capable of diverting the claimed diversion rate, and that the diverted water was beneficially used on the entire claimed place 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" followed by a small flourish.

Cindy E. Bird
Adjudication Bureau

CEB/bjp

Enclosure: Evidence of Priority Brochure