

MAILED
11-MARCH 04

March 11, 2004

**RICHARD F SMITH
PO BOX 8
REXBURG ID 83440**

RE: EVIDENCE OF PRIORITY FOR SRBA WATER RIGHT CLAIM 22-11147

Dear Claimant (s):

The Idaho Department of Water Resources is nearing the end of water rights review in Basin 23, the Swan Valley area. The Notice(s) of Claim identified with the number shown above has been filed in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA). The Notice of Claim 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 Claim. The date the water was first put to beneficial use, known as the priority date, has not been confirmed by 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.**

Your claim, as referenced above, claims a Priority Date of MAY 1, 1961, from a WELL.

It is important that each element of the Notice of Claim be verified. 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 of Claim 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"**.

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

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The Department will not recommend the Notice of Claim be decreed by the court if evidence of a priority date is not submitted. The Notice of Claim will be disallowed.
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Please submit the documentation supporting the priority date within 30 days of the date of this letter, referencing all documents with the corresponding claim number. If you have any questions not covered by this letter or the enclosed pamphlet, please feel free to contact this office.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick L. Olson
Special Contract Agent
Adjudication Bureau

cc: File

Enclosure: Brochure on "Evidence of Priority"
Notice of Claim (copy)