

2008 OCT -6 AM 11:38

DISTRICT COURT-SRBA
TWIN FALLS CO., IDAHO
FILED

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE
STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS

In Re SRBA	)	ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO FILE
	)	LATE OBJECTION, SETTING
Case No. 39576	)	DEADLINE, AND STATUS
	)	CONFERENCE
	)	SUBCASE NO.: 22-4096

I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

A *Motion to File Late Objection* was filed by Blackfoot Farms, LLC on June 24, 2008. A hearing was held on the *Motion* on October 1, 2008.

II. STANDARD OF REVIEW

The SRBA Administrative Orders do not provide a standard to be applied for filing late objections. However, the court's administrative rules set forth that *Motions to File a Late Notice of Claim* are to be reviewed under the criteria of I.R.C.P. 55(c) and 60(b). *SRBA Administrative Order 1 (AO1)* § 4 (d)(2)(d).

According to case law and the Rules of Civil Procedure, a court applies the criteria of I.R.C.P. 55(c) when determining whether to allow the filing of a late answer. Motions for Late Objection have been reviewed in the SRBA under the same criteria of Rule 55(c). The proponent of a Motion for Late Objection, like a party seeking to file an untimely answer, must show both "good cause" for untimeliness and the existence of a "meritorious position." I.R.C.P. 55(c).

The SRBA has recently affirmed the legal standard of what must be shown to satisfy "good cause" and "meritorious position." The legal standard for "good cause" for untimeliness of an objection is determined under the standard for setting aside the entry of a default under I.R.C.P. 55(c).

The "good cause" standard under Rule 55(c) is more lenient than the standard under Rule 60(b). The I.R.C.P. 55(c) standard takes into account the following factors:

- 1) whether the default was willful;

- 2) whether setting aside the judgment would prejudice the opponent; and
- 3) whether a meritorious position has been presented.

Order on Motion to Set Aside Partial Decrees and File Late Objections (A.L. Cattle) (Jan. 31, 2001).

In support of the *Motion*, Blackfoot Farms, LLC explained that the lateness of the *Objection* was not willful. Blackfoot Farms did not immediately recognize the discrepancy between the acreage and priority claimed and that recommended in the *Director's Report*. As soon as the claimant realized the discrepancy, it filed its *Motion*. A meritorious position was alleged to support the elements as claimed.

No parties to the SRBA opposed the *Motion*, and there is no showing prejudice would result from allowing the late objection.

III. FINDINGS

There was no opposition to the *Motion*. Therefore, the *Motion to File Late Objection* is **granted**. The *Objection* will be filed with the court dated October 1, 2008.

IT IS ORDERED that the following deadline shall govern further proceedings:

November 28, 2008	5:00 pm	Deadline to file Response to Objection
December 17, 2008	10:30 am	Status Conference
		Location: Snake River Basin Adjudication 253 3 rd Ave. North Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Parties may participate by phone for the Status Conference by dialing 1-225-383-1099 and when prompted enter participant code 926509. Any questions regarding telephone participation, please contact the Clerk's office at (208) 736-3011.

Dated: October 3, 2008.



BRIGETTE BILYEU
Special Master
Snake River Basin Adjudication

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that a true and correct copy of the ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO FILE LATE OBJECTION, SETTING DEADLINE AND STATUS CONFERENC was mailed on October 06, 2008, with sufficient first-class postage to the following:

BLACKFOOT FARMS LLC

Represented by:
BUDGE, THOMAS J
201 E CENTER ST
PO BOX 1391
POCATELLO, ID 83204-1391
Phone: 208-232-6101

DIRECTOR OF IDWR
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, ID 83720-0098