



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

322 East Front Street • P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

Phone: (208) 287-4800 • Fax: (208) 287-6700 • Web Site: www.idwr.idaho.gov

March 26, 2009

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

DAVID R. TUTHILL, JR.
Director

MERLE L STEPHENSON
DEBORAH STEPHENSON
7128 BENEWAH CREEK RD
ST MARIES ID 83861

RE: Evidence of Priority Date Claim number(s):
95-4446 & 95-4500

Response Deadline
5/01/2009

Dear Claimants:

The Notice of Claim to a Water Right (claim) identified with the number shown above your name has been filed in the Coeur d'Alene-Spokane River Basin Adjudication, also known as Phase 1 of the Northern Idaho Adjudication (NIA). The claim indicates your water usage is based on "Beneficial Use" or a "Statutory Claim." Water rights of this type are established by the historic use of water, dating back to when water was first used for the purpose claimed, and are termed beneficial use rights. The date of first use, known as the priority date, has not been confirmed by a License, Decree or Permit. Since the priority date and historic use of a beneficial use right cannot be confirmed by field examination, proof must be provided by the claimant supporting the priority date claimed and the historic use of the water.

If you no longer own the property to which the claim is appurtenant please forward this correspondence to the present owner, or return it to Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). If you have received this correspondence from the previous owner of the property it is recommended that you file a Change of Ownership form with IDWR in order to receive future mailings and to participate in the adjudication.

Enclosed you will find the pamphlet entitled "Evidence of Priority." The pamphlet describes the types of evidence required and suggests which documents will fulfill this requirement.

PLEASE NOTE: IDWR will recommend the NIA Court decree the claim disallowed if no evidence of the priority date and of the historic use is submitted. It will be to your advantage to provide clear and convincing evidence. If you choose to submit statements from individuals as evidence, the statement should be in the form of a notarized affidavit.

Please submit the required evidence supporting the priority date and the historic use by the date shown above, referencing all documents with the corresponding claim number. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Craig L. Saxton
Water Right Supervisor
Adjudication Bureau

Enclosure(s) Evidence of Priority Pamphlet