

Chronology of the City of Boise Water Supply

by

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From 1863 through 1890 domestic and public water was supplied by individual wells, springs and irrigation ditches. Several public wells existed in the main downtown area and cisterns were constructed near irrigation ditches to hold water for fire fighting. In 1881 the first piped water system in the City was installed by H. B. and B. M. Eastman at the Overland Hotel which was located at the northwest corner of Eighth and Main streets. Water was obtained from a spring in Halls Gulch, stored in a nearby reservoir, and then piped to the hotel down Eighth Street. The Eastman brothers also supplied water to a City cistern used to store water for fighting fires, to Mr. C. W. Moore's mansion located on Grove Street and several other residences and businesses along the pipeline route. In 1889, the Eastman brothers proposed to supply water to the City for domestic and fire fighting purposes and on October 3, the City passed Ordinance No. 94 granting the Eastman brothers the right to lay water pipes in city streets. The Artesian Water and Land Company was formed in 1890 to compete with Eastman's company and on July 10, 1890, Ordinance No. 100 was passed by the City Council giving permission to the second company to install water pipes in city streets. In 1891 the two companies merged to form the Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company Limited. The company has undergone several name changes and for many years was known as the Boise Water Company. The current municipal water purveyor, United Water Idaho, is the successor to these private water companies. As the City expanded in the mid 1900s, many small water supply companies were purchased by Boise Water Company. Today, domestic water is supplied to the City by two companies, United Water Idaho and the Capitol Water Company. Several canal companies also provide lawn irrigation water to residential customers. Numerous private wells still exist in the City and the City owns several wells used for park irrigation. The following chronology notes important dates and events in the history of the Boise's water supply.

1863 The Vallisco Water Supply applied to the legislature for a charter and commenced work on two ditches to supply water to the Boise Valley. One ditch was to carry 5000 inches of water from near Beaver Dick's ranch on the Northeast side of the Boise River and would furnish water for agriculture, mining, mechanical and "city purposes". The ditch was designed to furnish 35 feet of head above downtown Main Street. The other ditch would run between Fort Boise and Boise City. The company did not open subscriptions for stock until February 1865. Work on the ditches started in May 1865 and was completed in 1866. William B. Hughes was elected president of the company. The ditch was later purchased by R. Z. Johnson and J. B. Walling. In later years, the ditch was also known as the Walling ditch, the Perrault ditch, the Cruzen ditch and the Goodwin ditch.

- 1869 A large cistern was constructed in front of the Overland Hotel to supply water for fighting fires.
- 1870 There was a town water well and pump on the corner of Eighth and Main. In October, Frank Coffin drove a perforated well pipe in the county courthouse yard and installed a pump.
- 1871 In July, a boring crew began drilling a well in the public square near the statue of George Washington (site of current capital building). At first the drillers used a horse powered treadmill but later switched to steam power. The boring encountered difficulties and was abandoned. Frank Davis started a second well but it was also abandoned.
- 1875 A municipal water system was the subject of discussion and the newspaper recommended looking at the possibility of using artesian wells as a source of water for the City.
- 1876 In the 1870s numerous water ditches in the City were used to provide irrigation water for fruit and vegetable gardens. After the water was diverted from the ditches, there was no drainage system to remove excess water. This resulted in frequent flooding and the creation of mud holes in the streets. In 1879, the city passed Ordinance No. 41 requiring individuals diverting irrigation water to construct drainage ditches and culverts under streets. However these bridges or culverts were often too small and the newspaper advocated using a road tax to build and maintain the street crossings.
- 1879 A water supply for the City was again discussed and the newspaper advocated using a spring in Hull's Gulch to supply water to the City. The spring was reported to flow 100 gallons per minute (gpm) and could be used to fill a reservoir and distribute the water through galvanized pipes. The cost was estimated to be less than \$10,000. This system was never installed. In 1879, water for fighting fires was stored in cisterns located at all major intersections on Grove and Idaho Streets. The cisterns were filled from the Grove Street ditch.
- 1881 H. B. and B. M. Eastman installed a water system for the Overland Hotel which they had purchased in 1877. This was the first piped water system in Boise. Water was piped from a spring in Hull's Gulch to a nearby reservoir and then through galvanized pipes down Eighth Street to the hotel. The water pressure was sufficient to shoot a stream of water horizontally 70 feet or to spray water over the roof of the hotel. The Eastman brothers also supplied water to Mr. C. W. Moore's residence on Grove Street, water to fill a city cistern located at the intersection of Eighth and Idaho Streets and to other residences and businesses along Eighth Street. The population of Boise at this time was approximately 2000.
- 1882 The newspaper advocated that the Eastman Brothers add a second reservoir and supply water to the city for domestic purposes; however this did not occur for several

years.

The Boise City Water Company Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Territorial Secretary. The trustees were: Dr. John L. Stephens, James H. Bush, David P. B. Pride and Joseph S. Morgan. Apparently the company never installed a water supply system.

- 1886 The City of Boise discussed installing a municipal-owned water supply system. Options included using water from the Boise River above town, a ditch from Cottonwood Creek or by artesian wells. However, Cottonwood Creek would not supply water year round and artesian wells were not proven in the area, although they were considered the cheapest solution. The system was estimated to cost \$25,000 to \$50,000. The Idaho Territorial capital was completed in 1886 and water to the building was supplied by the Eastman brothers.
- 1887 In June 1877, the Idaho Territory Legislature passed Statute 2711 which established methods to regulate the setting of rates that private water supply corporations could charge for water. One clause of the statute required corporations to provide water free of charge to fight fires and other emergencies. This clause later became the source of ten years of litigation between the water company and the City of Boise. In March 1887 the City of Boise passed Ordinance No. 83, contracting with Frank Davis to provide fire protection for the city. He proposed to drill a 500 foot deep artesian well in Cottonwood Creek, provided the city or subscribers would provide the casing. Apparently this venture failed.
- 1888 Water for fighting fires was available from the irrigation ditch on Grove Street and from two public wells located at the intersection of Sixth and Idaho and Eighth and Idaho. Four water storage tanks were located on the Grove Street ditch and could be used to fight fires. The only piped water supply was provided by the limited system the Eastman brothers installed in 1881. The Eastman's reservoir near the springs in Hull's Gulch was constructed of brick and had a capacity of approximately 35,000 gallons.
- 1889 On October 3, 1889, the City of Boise passed Ordinance No. 94 which granted a franchise to the Eastman brothers to lay pipes in the city streets and supply domestic water to the city.
- 1890 The Eastmans drilled three artesian wells in Hull's Gulch near the spring used to supply the Overland hotel. The wells were approximately 20 feet deep and flowed at 800,000 gallons per day. The Eastmans proposed to serve the City water at a rate of \$ 3.00 per faucet per month. Another merchant, Nathan Faulk, considered the price too high and formed a competing company with Coffin, Tom Davis and John Lemp. On June 2, 1890 they incorporated the Artesian Water and Land Company. On July 10, the City passed Ordinance No. 100 giving the Artesian Water and Land Company permission to lay water pipes in the city streets. On June 23, H. B. Eastman, T. Regan,

Peter Sonna, C. W. Moore, Alfred Eoff and W. H. Ridenbaugh incorporated the Boise Water Works Company. Soon afterward, the Artesian Water and Land Company completed their artesian wells in Hull's Gulch and there were two water supply systems competing to supply water to the City. Both companies constructed pipelines at the same time and arguments between the two were frequent. The companies often left trenches open overnight and in some places the streets subsided due to lack of fill dirt covering the pipes. Both companies were awarded fire contracts by the City. The City purchased the fire hydrants and Boise Water Works Company was paid \$ 8.00 each for installing 30 hydrants and the Artesian Water and Land Company was paid \$25.00 each for installing 20 hydrants. The population of Boise at this time was approximately 4000.

1890 In 1890, Mr. Grumbling, a water well driller, approached the Boise Water Works Company with the idea of drilling an artesian hot water well near the Penitentiary. It was well known that there was an area near the Penitentiary where the ground was warm and snow did not accumulate. The Water Company purchased 10 acres from Robert Wilson and began exploration for hot water.

1891 By March 1891, while the two companies battled to provide water to the city, the Boise Water Works Company had completed two hot water wells about 300 yards west of the State Penitentiary. In April 1891 a contract was awarded to the Puget Sound Pipe Company for the construction of a reservoir near the hot water wells. In May of that year, the wells were flowing approximately 1,000,000 gallons of water per day at a temperature of 180 degree F. The primary use proposed for the hot water was for a hot water bath resort.

On March 27, 1891, the Boise Water Works Company and the Artesian Water and Land Improvement Company consolidated into a new company, the Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company Limited. The directors, drawn from the original stockholders of both companies, were:

H.B. Eastman	Peter Sonna
C. W. Moore	Nathan Falk
T. Regan	W. Northrop
W.H. Ridenbaugh	Thomas Davis
Alfred Eoff	J.R. Delamar
John Lemp	

The officers for the company were: President C. W. Moore, Secretary Charles A. Clark, and Treasurer Alfred Eoff. Clark resigned two weeks later and was replaced by E. B. Tage. The Executive Committee of the new company was made up of: H.B Eastman Chairman, T Regan, W. H. Ridenbaugh, Nathan Falk, and Thomas Davis.

In April 1891, the water rates for the new company were set as:

House with four rooms or less	\$1/month
House with 5 or 6 rooms	\$1.25/month
House with 7 + rooms	\$1.50/month
Bathtubs extra each at	\$0.50/month
Lawn sprinkling per 50 foot lot	\$5.00/ season
Irrigation of Extra lot	\$2.50/season
Private Stables	\$0.50/month

- 1892 The Boise Natatorium was designed by John C. Paulsen who designed the Broadwater Natatorium in Helena, Montana. The “Nat” opened on May 25, 1892. It was supplied with hot water from the new hot water wells near the Penitentiary. Water was piped down Warm Springs Road to the Natatorium via a wooden pipeline. The Natatorium was a 15,000 square foot, three story building which contained a 65 by 125 foot hot water swimming pool. The Nat offered hot tubs, steam tubs, Turkish baths and had smoking and reading rooms. The pool could be drained and covered with a wooden floor for major dances. The supply of water from the wells was in excess of the Natatorium’s needs and the company explored the possibility of providing residential hot water. Two of the company officers, C. W. Moore and H. B. Eastman successfully used the water to heat their homes on Warm Springs Road. Soon, other residents signed up for hot water at a rate of \$2 per month for a small house and \$3 per month for a large house and Boise became the first city in the United States to use geothermal water to heat private homes. This original hot water system still exists today and is known as the Boise Warm Springs Water District.
- 1892 The water company proposed to drill a new water supply well on Fort Boise property and requested Senator George Shoup to assist them in obtaining permission from the War Department. The company was providing domestic water to the Fort and proposed reducing the rate for water for the drilling concession. The War Department declined the proposal.
- 1893 In 1893, the water supply system consisted of 6 artesian wells in Hull’s Gulch with a capacity of 1,500,000 gallons per day. Two reservoirs were located near the wells at an elevation of 162 feet above Main Street. The capacity of the reservoirs was 10,000 and 550,000 gallons. They were not connected together but discharged into the same 10-inch diameter water main. There were 16 miles of iron pipe in the city. The population of the city was approximately 5500.
- 1895 During the late 1890s and early 1900s, the City and the private water supply company were in constant dispute over the service, especially the pressure and volume available for fire fighting. One aspect of the dispute revolved around the following provision of Section 2711 of the 1877 Revised Statutes of Idaho.

“All corporations formed to supply water to cities or towns must furnish pure, fresh

water to the inhabitants thereof for family uses, so long as the supply permits, at reasonable rates and without distinction of person, upon proper demand thereof; and must furnish water to the extent of their means in case of fire or other great necessity, free of charge. The rates to be charged for water must be determined by commissioners to be selected as follows: Two by the city or town authorities, or when there are no city or town authorities, by the Board of Commissioners of the County, and two by the water company; and in case a majority cannot agree to the valuation, the four commissioners must choose a fifth commissioner; if they cannot agree upon a fifth, then the Probate Judge of the county must appoint such fifth person. The decision of the majority of the commissioners must determine the rates to be charged for water for one year, and until new rates are established. The Board of County Commissioners or the proper city or town authorities may prescribe proper rules relating to the delivery of water, not inconsistent with the laws of the Territory.”

The primary argument between the City and the water company was the fact that the water company charged the City a set amount each month for fire water. This issue was initially resolved in July 1895 when the Idaho Supreme Court ruled in Boise’s favor. The water company agreed the water was free but insisted they could charge the City for the cost of the pipelines and pumps necessary to supply sufficient pressure to fight a fire.

1895 In 1895 flow from the Artesian wells in Hulls Gulch was insufficient to supply the growing needs of the City and two large diameter shallow wells and infiltration galleries were dug near the Natatorium.

1900 As the dispute with the water company continued, the City Council considered the construction of a new municipal system. City Councilman Phelps wrote to several cities to inquire about the cost of such a system. In December, Phelps presented a report to the city Council containing the results of a survey of 50 cities queried on municipal ownership. Of the thirty responses to Phelps’ letter, twenty-four were in favor of municipal ownership of water supply systems

The City estimated a new gravity water system would cost \$400,000 and a pumping system \$200,000. State law would only allow the City to issue bonds for 15% of the assessed valuation of taxable property in the City, which at the time was approximately \$3,000,000. Given the existing bonding of \$225,000, the City only had \$225,000 for new bonding capacity, a sum insufficient for a construction of the preferred gravity system. The City’s assessed valuation was made using only 60% of market value and the City could have raised the valuation to meet new bonding needs. In 1901, the newspaper encouraged the City to put the proposition before the people.

1900 On September 1, 1900 the Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company, incorporated in the State of West Virginia as the Boise Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company, Ltd. The purpose of the incorporation in West Virginia was to gain an advantage in the ongoing legal issues with the City concerning the rates charged for water for fighting fires. As

an out of state corporation, the case could be decided in a federal versus a state court.

- 1902 The water company, still in a dispute with the City over Section 2711 of the 1877 Revised Statutes of Idaho, hired an attorney to contest the validity of the Statute. At issue was not only the cost of water for fighting fires but if Boise could change Ordinance No. 94 which granted the water company the right to lay water pipes in the city. In a May 29, 1903 verdict the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuits rendered the following decision as related to City Ordinance No. 94.

“No term was fixed for the duration of the privilege, and no contract was in terms made between the city and the grantees of the privilege. It is plain that the ordinance was either the grant of a license revocable at the will of the grantee, or, by its acceptance on the part of the grantee, it became an irrevocable and perpetual contract. No middle ground is tenable between these two constructions. In the constitutions of nearly all the states it is provided that no exclusive or perpetual franchises shall be granted, and irrespective of such constitutional limitation, it is clear, both upon reason and authority, that no municipal corporation, in the absence of express legislative authority, has power to grant a perpetual franchise for the use of its streets.”

- 1903 In 1903, the Boise Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company Ltd. had 13 flowing artesian wells with a capacity of 300,000 gallons per day. Water from the wells in Hull’s Gulch was collected in two stone and cement reservoirs of 550,000 gallons and 220,000 gallons. In addition the company had two wells located near the Natatorium. One was 25 foot in diameter and 17 feet deep and the other 16 feet in diameter and 20 feet deep. Water from the wells were pumped by two Worthington compound duplex steam pumps to a 550,000 gallon stone and cement reservoir located approximately 2 ½ miles Southeast of the City near the penitentiary. The reservoir near the penitentiary could also be filled by gravity from the reservoirs located in Hull’s Gulch. The population of the city was approximately 11,500.
- 1904 The City contemplated purchasing the water system and retained Samuel M. Gray, a consulting engineer to review the water system and determine a fair value. At that time, the water system consisted of eight artesian wells in Hulls Gulch and two shallow wells near the Natatorium. Water was stored in two reservoirs in Hull’s Gulch and another reservoir near the Penitentiary. During peak demand in August, the system supplied approximately 3,000,000 gallons of water per day. Ten percent of the supply was from the artesian wells and 90 percent was from the shallow wells near the Natatorium. There was approximately 31 miles of pipeline in the City. Mr. Gray estimated the value of the water supply system to be \$208,000.
- 1905 On March 9, 1905, the Idaho Legislature amended Section 2711 of the Idaho Statutes to allow water corporations to charge municipalities for water for fighting fires. House Bill 168 was introduced by Orin V. Allen from Ada County. The Bill passed on the third reading with a vote of 44 Ayes and one Nay. The single nay vote was by Harvey B. Powers also of Ada County. The rates were to be set by a commission

selected by the water company and the municipal government. The rates established by the commission for the City of Boise were \$300 per month. On May 31, 1906, the City retaliated and passed Ordinance No. 678 charging the water company \$300 per month for the use of city streets and alleys to run water lines. Over the next few years there were several additional lawsuits filed either by the City or the water company. Ultimately all of the legal actions were combined and argued before the Supreme Court on May 7 and 8, 1913. The Court ruled that both Ordinance No. 94 and the Ordinance of July 19th, 1890 (Ordinance No. 100) were valid and that Ordinance No. 678 was “illegal and void and amounted to impairment to those rights in violation of the contract clause of the Federal Constitution.”

- 1907 In 1907 the Capital Water Company was formed. The gravity system was supplied with water from the Boise River via the Cruzen Ditch. The company supplied water for fire protection to the central business district and to the City to sprinkle the streets.
- 1912 The city was supplied with water from two separate systems. The Boise Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company had both gravity and direct pressure systems. The direct pressure system was supplied from an intake well 30 feet in diameter and 21 feet deep near the river and supplied by underflow from the river. Two pumps were capable of pumping 2,000 gpm from this well. In addition, a steam powered pumping system of two Worthington compound duplex steam pumps with 1,500,000 gallons per day capacity each were available to use in the two wells near the Natatorium. The city had four water storage reservoirs. The No.1 reservoir was a brick and cement lined excavated reservoir located about 2 ½ miles north of the City with a capacity of 550,000 gallons. It was supplied by artesian wells with a flow of 220,000 gallons per day. The second reservoir was a brick and cement lined excavated reservoir located approximately ½ mile south of the first reservoir. This reservoir was supplied by artesian wells with a flow of 190,000 gallons per day. The third reservoir was located 2 ½ miles east of town near the Penitentiary and was supplied by a pumping plant and water well near the river. A fourth reservoir was under construction and was located approximately 250 feet northeast of the No 2 reservoir. When completed it would have a capacity of 5,000,000 gallons. The system consisted of approximately 50 miles of pipeline, of which approximately 16 miles were wooden. The population of the City was approximately 17,358.

The second water supply system or Capital Water Co. (Cruzen system) was a gravity only system and consisted of approximately 15 miles of mains and seven fire cisterns with a capacity of 4,000 each and one 7,200 gallon cistern in the downtown business section.

- 1913 In 1913 the Public Utilities Commission was formed to regulate domestic water supply rates and the Hot and Cold Water Company was separated into two separate water companies, one to supply domestic water, the other to supply hot water. The stockholders were the same for both companies.

- 1915 On December 11, 1915 The Boise Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company, which had been incorporated in West Virginia, reincorporated in Idaho with no change in name.
- 1917 A Graduate student at the State College of Washington completed a Master's Thesis on the water system to determine if the source of water in the shallow wells near the Natatorium was from the Boise River or from groundwater originating in the hills north and east of Boise. He concluded that the wells obtained water from both sources.
- 1920 On April 18, 1920 the water company repurchased the Natatorium. On October 1, 1920, the Boise Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company changed its name to the Boise Artesian Water Company and sold the Natatorium Company the hot water portion of the company. The Natatorium and the hot water system were not considered public utilities and were kept as separate legal entities. However, the stock of the Natatorium Company was entirely held by the stockholders of the Boise Artesian Water Company. The sale of the company was specifically to avoid regulation of the hot water rates by the Public Utilities Commission.
- 1921 In 1921, a typhoid outbreak occurred in the City. Between January 21 and February 4, 1921, 26 cases of typhoid were reported in Boise, of which seven deaths occurred. In December of the previous year, bacteriological samples taken from the wells near the Natatorium showed evidence of contamination but no action was taken because bacteria was not found in the distribution system. On January 4, 1921 a "Boil the Water" notice was placed in the local newspaper and on January 11 temporary chlorine equipment was installed on the system. The temporary equipment was replaced in March 1921 with a solution feed liquid chlorinator. A gas chlorinator was installed in 1925. The population of the City was approximately 21,393.
- 1923 The Boise Artesian Water Company conducted a study to determine the volume of unaccounted water (typically water lost to leakage from pipes). Approximately 28 percent of the water produced was lost in the distribution system. This was comparable to lost water volume in 39 other city water systems.
- 1927 In January 1927 control of the Boise Artesian Water Company was sold to W. B. Regan. In December, the controlling interest was sold to Paul C. Dodge and Company of Chicago.
- 1928 On April 2, 1928, the Boise Artesian Water Company was reorganized as the Boise Water Corporation, and in July became affiliated with General Water Works Corporation.
- 1934 In 1934 the Natatorium was closed due to damages sustained over several years to the wooden structure. The "Nat's" demise was final when part of the roof collapsed in a high wind.

- 1938 In 1938 the Boise Water Corporation was issued a 30 year franchise to supply water in the City of Boise. The franchise required a 3 % tax paid to the city on gross revenues.
- 1941 The Boise Water Corporation was using both gravity and pressure systems. A pumping plant was located near the Boise River and an 800 gallon per minute 12 inch diameter well approximately 350 feet deep was installed 300 feet north of the pumping plant. Although the well was listed as artesian, it was equipped with a pump. The No.1 reservoir (550,000 gallon capacity) was supplied from one 12 inch diameter 200 foot deep well equipped with a 900 gpm pump. The No. 2 reservoir was filled by flowing artesian wells in Hull's Gulch at a rate of 190,000 gallons per day. The No. 3 reservoir was no longer in use and the No. 4 reservoir (5,000,000 gallon capacity) was connected to the circulation system. The system consisted of approximately 68 miles of pipeline, some made of wood. The population of Boise was approximately 26,100.
- 1946 Boise Water Corporation was purchased by General Water Works of Pine Bluff, Ark.
- 1951 The Boise Water Corporation investigated the potential health problems associated with the natural fluoride in the water system.
- 1955 The PUC issued Willow Lane Water Company a Certificate of Convenience to provide water to a subdivision adjacent to the southwest boundary of the City of Boise.
- 1959 On April 6, 1959 the Willow Lane Water Corporation was reorganized as the Capitol Securities Water Corporation. Over the next several years, the company acquired adjacent small water systems that provided water to subdivisions outside the City. Eventually the areas served by Willow Lane were annexed into Boise.
- 1964 The Capital Securities Water Corporation was issued a 25-year franchise. The system had no storage reservoirs and three deep water wells. At that time the company had 750 to 800 customers.
- 1967 International Utilities Company purchased General Water Works, the parent company of Boise Water Corporation.
- 1968 In 1968 the City formed the Boise Water Resource Committee to investigate the concept of municipal ownership of the water system and retained the engineering firm of Cornell, Howland, Hayes and Merryfield to evaluate the water system requirements for the Boise Metropolitan Area. On the issue of public versus private ownership the consulting company concluded: "The type of ownership should be chosen that will give the best service for the least cost." In June 1968, the City issued Ordinance No. 2918 which granted a 10-year service extension to Boise Water Corporation.
- 1969 In January 1969, the City retained Stevens, Thompson & Runyan, Inc. to prepare an

appraisal of the Boise Water Corporation and the Capitol Securities Water Corporation. The report concluded that the value of the systems was between 5.8 and 9.7 million dollars. The population of Boise had grown to approximately 75,000.

1975 In 1975 a citizen committee was formed and the City hired a consultant to determine if the City should purchase the water system. The report concluded no savings could be made by purchasing the system.

1977 In 1977 the water system was evaluated by the Boise Center for Urban Research. The report concluded that the system did not have excessive problems and that “water delivery was efficiently and effectively carried out.” The report listed 216 water wells in the Boise area, 32 of them owned by Boise Water Corporation.

In 1977 the State of Idaho converted the State Health Laboratory near the penitentiary to geothermal heating and realized a significant reduction in heating costs.

1978 The franchise to Boise Water Corporation was renewed for 15-years.

1981 Two Geothermal wells were drilled near the Capitol building and by 1982, nine state buildings in the capital complex were being heated by geothermal water. A private company, Boise Geothermal, drilled four wells and in 1983 began to supply hot water to downtown buildings.

1983 Two geothermal heating wells were drilled by the Veteran’s Administration and additional hot water wells were drilled in 1986.

1987 The remaining 800 feet of wooden water pipes were removed and replaced with PVC pipes.

1988 In 1988 the City of Boise purchased Boise Geothermal, a private company established to provide hot water to the downtown area.

1991 On July 15, 1991, Capitol Water Securities changed their name to Capitol Water Corporation and the City of Boise extended their franchise to 2015.

1994 The Boise Water Corporation became affiliated with United Water Resources when the General Water Works Corporation and United Water Resources merged. At that time, approximately 30 per cent of United Water Resources stock was owned by Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux, a French company. The water treatment plant was also constructed to treat water from the river and from the shallow infiltration wells along the river bank. Approximately 20 per cent of the water supply is obtained from the shallow infiltration wells or the river. The City population was in excess of 125,000.

1995 In 1995, Boise Water Corporation changed its name to United Water Idaho and the water supply franchise was extended to 2015.

- 2000 In 2000, Suez acquired the outstanding stock of United Water Resources for \$1.02 billion.
- 2004 In 2004, domestic water was supplied by two private water supply companies, United Water of Idaho and Capitol Water Company. Capitol Water is the smaller of the two systems and serves approximately 2700 customers with groundwater from seven water wells. United Water supplies water to the City of Boise and some customers outside the city limits. Groundwater from approximately 90 water wells provides approximately 80 per cent of the water. The remaining 20 per is supplied from two infiltration wells adjacent to the Boise River and one direct intake from the river. In some areas of the City, lawn irrigation water is provided by private canal companies. In addition there are numerous private water supply wells in the City used for industrial, domestic and irrigation purposes. The City also owns several water wells used to irrigate municipal parks. There are four separate geothermal systems in Boise. The Boise Warm Spring Water District (predecessor to the original hot water company), the City of Boise Geothermal System, the Veteran's Complex and the State Capitol/Mall Complex. In addition there are approximately 150 private geothermal wells in the City. In 2004 the population of Boise exceeded 185,000.

Sources of Information

A number of primary and secondary sources were used to prepare this chronology. As with any history project, the chronology is incomplete and in some cases the sources provided conflicting data. Primary sources included microfilm newspaper articles in the collections of the Idaho State Historical Society and Boise State University library. A significant amount of information was obtained from Idaho Archive Manuscript file MS 395, which contains the 1890 to 1950 business records of the Boise Water Corporation. Secondary sources included the Sanborn Insurance Map Collection on file with the Idaho State Historical Society and various technical reports prepared by government agencies or consultants to the City of Boise. Interviews were also conducted with several individuals associated with the Boise Water Company. Additional information was provided by City of Boise staff and employees of the two water companies.