



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

July 16, 2009

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

DAVID R. TUTHILL, JR.
Director

Arrowhead Water District
C/O Robert Kramer, Chairman
54 Oliver Drive
Salmon, ID 83467

COPY

IDWR File 75-14465

RE: Chipps Creek Dam
AKA Arrowhead Reservoir

Dear Mr. Kramer:

On Thursday, 6/25/09 Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) personnel visited the referenced site and determined that an embankment dam exists across a small tributary locally known as Chipps Creek, located in Section 2, T21N, R21E, Lemhi County. IDWR personnel determined that the size of the dam and reservoir, together with its location relative to downstream development, qualifies this structure as a jurisdictional dam per Idaho Code §42-1711. Our further review of Idaho's inventory of dams and reservoirs failed to produce any information about this structure; its design, method of construction or state dam safety approval to impound water.

Based on site observations, several required safety features that are considered necessary for a structure of this size and presenting this hazard potential are missing from the dam. Most important is the apparent lack of an emergency overflow spillway. This deficiency is unacceptable with regard to public safety. At the time of our site visit the pool level was within one-foot of the dam crest; without any means to reduce the flow of water into the reservoir or to adjust its release in order to regulate the water surface elevation. Passive seepage through the base of the embankment appeared to be the only mechanism available for controlling the water surface of the reservoir.

Please refrain from storing any water behind the dam until you have 1) Submitted an Application for Construction of a Small Dam, and 2) Modified the structure to meet current dam safety standards for an impoundment of this height, storage capacity and hazard rating. We are available to answer any questions you may have regarding the necessary safety improvements or the procedural steps needed to bring this structure into compliance with existing state water law.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at the number listed above. You may also contact Lyle Swank in the Eastern Regional Office, (208) 525-7161.

Sincerely,

John Falk, PE
Dam Safety Manager

cc: Afton C. Higley
Benjamin Jones
Jerry Rigby – Rigby, Andrus & Moeller
Lyle Swank – Eastern Regional Manager
w/o Don Shaff – IDWR Adjudication
IDWR file

Enclosure – Application Form