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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

DISTRICT COURT-SRBA Fifth Judicial District County of Twin Falls - State of Idaho
DEC 14 2009
By _____ Clerk _____ Deputy Clerk

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 AND
Case No. 39576	)	SETTING DEADLINES
	)	
	)	SUBCASE NOS.: 37-28K AND 37-297A
	)	
_____	)	

I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

A *Motion to File Late Objection* was filed by the Elizabeth Mathieu Revocable Living Trust on July 16, 2009. A hearing was held on the *Motion* on December 9, 2009.

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 I (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*, the Elizabeth Mathieu Revocable Living Trust explained that there is good cause for the lateness of these *Objections*. There was a recent determination by IDWR that the pond connected to these rights is too large to qualify as an irrigation holding pond. Therefore, the elements need to be objected to at this time.

A meritorious position was alleged because the elements of these rights may need to be described differently than recommended to be consistent with neighboring rights which also describe the pond. 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. IT IS ORDERED that the following deadlines shall govern further proceedings:

January 22, 2010	5:00 pm	Deadline to file Response to Objection
June 23, 2010	1:30 pm	Status Conference
		Location: Snake River Basin Adjudication 253 3 rd Ave. North Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Parties may participate by telephone 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: December 14, 2009.


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 AND SETTING DEADLINES was mailed on December 14, 2009, with sufficient first-class postage to the following:

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