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OCT 19 2009

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Orr Affidavit

Exhibit 52

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WATER RESOURCES

Letter from A.P. Davis, Director of the U.S.
Reclamation Service, to Mr. Merrill, Executive
Secretary of the Federal Power Commission
(Mar. 26, 1921)

CAB:GMA

MAR 26 1921

Executive Secretary,

Federal Power Commission.

Dear Mr. Merrill:

Reference is made to application before your commission of the Idaho Power Co., Serial No. 19, Idaho, covering the Upper Salmon Falls power site on the Snake River about 60 miles below Milner dam.

Enclosed please find in duplicate copy of report of Engineer George L. Hoffman of this bureau on the proposed development.

From this report, you will note that the Upper Salmon Falls development is intimately tied up with the Minidoka project of the Reclamation Service, comprising 121,500 acres now under ditch with a 115,000 acre extension planned for the immediate future. It is also intimately concerned with our proposed American Falls reservoir for which preliminary work is now in progress. Large sums have already been expended by the United States for purchases of rights of way for the reservoir. The Sundry Civil Act of March 4, 1921, appropriated \$1,735,000 for this proposition.

The American Falls work has been undertaken under agreements with the various irrigation districts up and down the river whereby the dam will be built by the Reclamation Service. Part of the funds will be advanced by these local interests, the cost being divided between them and the United States in proportion to their several interests in the storage, of which the share of the United States will be by far the largest.

This reservoir will completely control and utilize Snake River above Milner dam and it would manifestly be opposed to the public interest to grant to a private company rights which might enable them to handicap seriously, if not prohibit, the otherwise feasible complete development of the power and irrigation resources of Snake River Basin.

The dam and a portion of both canals proposed to be constructed by the power company at Upper Salmon Falls are shown

as located on land that has been withdrawn by the Reclamation Service for the past 12 or 13 years and it is earnestly recommended that no permit be granted for this site at the present time, pending the complete study of the American Falls development.

Yours very truly,

A. P. Davis

encl. in duplicate.

Director.