

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE
STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS

In Re the General Adjudication
of the Rights to the Use of Water
from the Snake River Basin
Water System

Case No. 36-10168 -0001

The State of Idaho, ex rel.
R. Keith Higginson in his
official capacity as Director
of the Idaho Department of
Water Resources,

RESPONSE TO OBJECTION

Petitioner,

36-10168 -0001/
93-08-0436

vs.

The United States; the State
of Idaho; and all Claimants to
the use of water from the Snake
River Basin Water System,

Respondents.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Person responding to objection:

Name: R. KEITH HIGGINSON, DIRECTOR

Address: IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
P.O. BOX 44449
BOISE, ID 83711-4449

Briefly describe your interest in this water right:

IDWR is required to file a response to an objection to part
I of the director's report pursuant to I.C. section 42-1412(2).

(Over)

2. Person who filed objection:

Name: WILLIAM E & VERA C FLINT
Address: 7745 ROPALT STREET
LA MESA CA 91942

3. If this response is filed by an attorney:

Attorney Name(s): NICHOLAS B. SPENCER
Attorney Address: DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL(S)
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
P.O. BOX 44449
BOISE, ID 83711-4449
Attorney Phone No.: (208) 327-7900

II. STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSE

1. ☒ Name and Address: I respond to the objection concerning the name and/or address of the owner of the water right.
3. ☒ Quantity: I respond to the objection concerning:
- 3a. ☒ The total quantity of water used in cubic feet per second.
7. ☒ Purposes of Use: I respond to the objection concerning the purpose(s) of use.
10. ☒ Consumptive Use: I respond to the objection concerning the annual volume of consumptive use.
14. ☒ Other: I respond to the objection concerning:

ALL MATTERS RAISED IN THE CLAIMANTS' ANSWER,
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES, AND PRAYER FOR RELIEF.

REASONS SUPPORTING EACH BOX CHECKED

In response to Statement of the Objection item 1, IDWR responds that it will change the claimant's address on its records to that shown on the objection. This, however, may not change the claimant's address on the records of the SRBA Court. The Court has developed its "Standard Form 3" to be used for reporting matters such as address changes and changes in ownership. The claimant may need to file this form with the SRBA Court.

In response to Statement of the Objection items 3 and 3.a, and all allegations of the objection regarding those items, IDWR responds as follows: (1) it recommended the amount of water it determined was being beneficially used; (2) the claimant is not entitled to any amount greater than that which is beneficially used (Idaho Code Secs. 42-104 and 42-1402); (3) the recommendation of the director to the SRBA Court as to how the right should be decreed does not constitute a taking because it is simply a recommendation and not a final determination of the right; and (4) the eventual decree by the SRBA Court of the amount of water beneficially used, even if less than the amount previously decreed, will not constitute a taking because the right is limited to that amount beneficially used.

In further response to this objection item, IDWR responds that it recommended this element of the water right as claimed. The objection does not state the different amount sought; this portion of the objection should therefore be stricken.

In response to Statement of the Objection item 7, and all allegations of the objection regarding that item, IDWR responds that it recommended the same purpose of use that was identified on the notice of claim and that was found when the claim was investigated. By identifying in the objection stockwater as an additional use that the claimants did not list on the notice of claim, the claimant improperly seeks to use the objection process to amend the claim. A claimant must obtain leave of the court to amend a claim after a director's report is filed, just as a party must obtain leave of the court to file a late claim after the director's report is filed. Once leave of the court is granted, IDWR can investigate the amended claim and make an appropriate recommendation to the court.

In response to Statement of the Objection item 10 and all allegations of the objection regarding that item, IDWR responds as follows: Idaho Code Sec. 42-1411(2)(i) requires the director

(Over)

to determine the annual volume of consumptive use for each water right acquired under state law and recommended in the director's report. General Provision 9 in the Director's Report states: "Where consumptive use is not stated for a right or a portion of a right, the consumptive use for that right or that portion of the right is so small that it is deemed to be de minimus." IDWR did not include a consumptive use volume in its recommendation for this water right because the consumptive use for this right is deemed to be de minimus. Because no consumptive use was claimed for this right, and because no different amount is sought by the objection, this portion of the objection should be stricken.

In response to Statement of the Objection item 14, and all allegations of the objection regarding that item, see attached "IDWR's Response to Answer Affirmative Defenses and Prayer for Relief of Claimant".

In response to the sentence listed in Changes to the Director's Report, whereby the claimant attempts to "reserve the right to claim all purposes of use and quantities of use as shown by the evidence at trial," IDWR responds as follows: Insofar as this purported reservation of rights may constitute an attempt to reserve the right to amend at trial the claimant's notice of claim, the claimant improperly seeks to use the objection process to amend the claim. A claimant must obtain leave of the court to amend a claim just as a party must obtain leave of the court to file a late claim after the director's report is filed.

CHANGES TO THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The director proposes no changes to the description of this claim in the Director's Report.

☒ Check here if you are submitting documents. Please list each document by the title and number of pages. You may use additional pages if necessary:

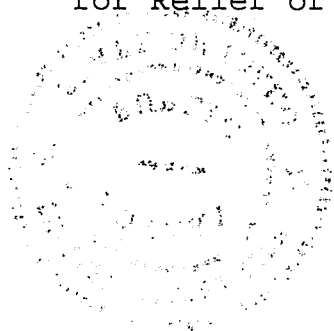
No. of
Pages

Notice of Claim No. A36-10168

2

IDWR's Response to Answer, Affirmative Defenses, and Prayer
for Relief of Claimant

4



(Over)

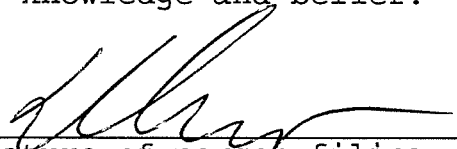
VERIFICATION (Must be Completed)

State of IDAHO

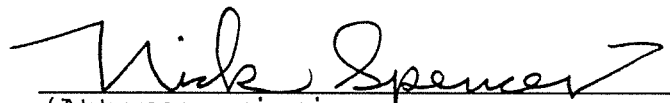
County of ADA

David B. Shaw, being first duly sworn, upon oath, deposes and says:

That R. Keith Higginson, in his official capacity as director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources, is a party to this proceeding, as defined by I.C. 42-1401A(1) and (7); that I am the Adjudication Bureau Chief for IDWR and am authorized by R. Keith Higginson, in his official capacity as director of IDWR, to verify this response; and that I have read the foregoing response, know its contents and that the statements contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

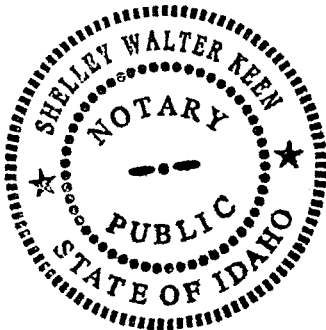


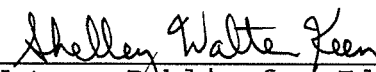
Signature of person filing response

By: 

(Attorney signing in
representative capacity)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of September,
1993.





Notary Public for Idaho
Residing at: Boise, Idaho
My Commission expires: July 31, 1997

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that on the 10th day of SEPTEMBER, 1993, I mailed the original and copies of the foregoing response, including all attachments, to the following persons, by mailing the original and/or true and correct copies, postage prepared and addressed as follows:

1. Original to:

Clerk of the District Court
Snake River Basin Adjudication
253 Third Avenue North
P.O. Box 2707
Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-2707

2. One copy to the owner of the water right, and you must fill in the following information:

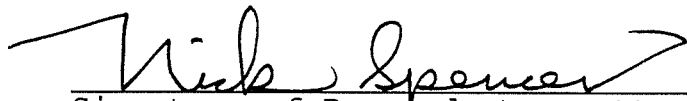
See No. 3

3. One copy to the party who filed the objection, or if represented by an attorney, to their attorney; and you must fill in the following information:

Name: HEPWORTH NUNGESTER & LEZAMIZ
Address: PATRICK D BROWN
& PENELOPE PARKER
PO BOX 389
TWIN FALLS ID 83303

4. One copy to:

United States Department of Justice
Environment and Natural Resource Division
550 West Fort Street, Box 33
Boise, Idaho 83734



Signature of Respondent or attorney
mailing on Respondent's behalf

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO,
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS

IN RE THE GENERAL ADJUDICATION
OF RIGHTS TO THE USE OF WATER FROM
THE SNAKE RIVER BASIN WATER SYSTEM.

CIVIL CASE NUMBER: 39570

Ident. Number: A36-10168
Date Received: 7/07/1988
Receipt No: 5060776
Received By: js

NOTICE OF CLAIM TO A WATER RIGHT
ACQUIRED UNDER STATE LAW

1. Name: WILLIAM E. FLINT 208-837-4884
Address: RT. 1 BOX 414
HAGERMAN, ID 83332

AND/OR

Name: VERA C. FLINT 208-837-4884
Address: RT. 1 BOX 414
HAGERMAN, ID 83332

2. Date of Priority: JAN 01, 1936

3. Source: GROUNDWATER Trib. to:

4. Point of Diversion:

Township	Range	Section	1/4 of	1/4 of	1/4 of	Lot	County
07S	13E	11	SE	NE	SW		GOODING

5. Description of diverting works:
WELL & PUMP

6. Water is used for the following purposes:

Purpose	From	To	C.F.S.	(or)	A.F.A.
DOMESTIC	01/01	12/31	0.040		

7. Total Quantity Appropriated is:
0.040 C.F.S. (and/or) A.F.A.

8. Total consumptive use is Acre Feet Per Annum.

9. Non-irrigation uses:
DOMESTIC/1 HOME WITH LAWN

A36-10168

Page 1

Date: 07/07/88

MICROFILMED

FEB 11 1993

10. Place of Use:

Township	Range	Section	1/4 of 1/4	Lot	Use	Acres
07S	13E	11	NE SW		DOMEST	

11. Place of use in counties: GOODING

12. Do you own the property listed above as place of use? YES

13. Other Water Rights Used:

DECREED SURFACE WATER IS MAIN SOURCE FOR LAWN IRRIGATION.

14. Remarks:

WELL IS USED ON LAWN WHEN SURFACE WATER IS NOT AVAILABLE.

15. Basis of Claim: BENEFICIAL USE

16. Signature(s)

(a.) By signing below, I/We acknowledge that I/We have received, read and understand the form entitled "How you will receive notice in the Snake River Basin Adjudication." (b.) I/We do x do not wish to receive and pay a small annual fee for monthly copies of the docket sheet.

Number of attachments:

For Individuals:

I/We do solemnly swear or affirm that the statements contained in the foregoing document are true and correct.

Signature of Claimant(s): William E. Smith Date: July 7, 1988
Date:

State of Idaho)
County of Twin Falls) SS.

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) before me this 7th day

of July 19 88

Mary A. Baldwin
Notary Public

Seal

Residing at Gooding Id
My Commission Expires 10/16/1992

IDWR'S RESPONSE TO ANSWER, AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES AND PRAYER FOR
RELIEF OF CLAIMANT

This portion of the response addresses the multi-page attachment to the objection (hereinafter "the attachment"), wherein the claimant admits or denies all sections of Parts I, II, and III of the director's report, asserts 27 affirmative defenses, and alleges a prayer for relief. The attachment contains the following sections, corresponding to the various sections of the director's report:

- (1) I. GENERAL RESPONSE
- (2) II. DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY, (first unnumbered page of Part I of the director's report)
- (3) III. TABLE OF CONTENTS (second and third unnumbered pages of Part I of the director's report)
- (4) IV. 1. INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THIS REPORT PART I (page 1 of Part I of the director's report)
- (5) IV. 2. SCOPE OF THE ADJUDICATION (pages 1-3 of Part I of the director's report)
- (6) IV. 3. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT PART I (pages 3-4 of Part I of the director's report)
- (7) V. 1. BOUNDARIES OF BASIN (pages 4-6 of Part I of the director's report)
- (8) V. 2. WATER SOURCES (page 6 of Part I of the director's report)
- (9) V. 3. DEVELOPMENT OF WATER USE (pages 6-9 of Part I of the director's report)
- (10) VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS 1-8 APPLY TO ALL WATER RIGHTS IN BASIN 36 (page 9 of Part I of the director's report)
- (11) VI. General Provision 1. EFFECT OF ADJUDICATION (page 9 of Part I of the director's report)
- (12) VI. General Provision 2. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS (pages 9-10 of Part I of the director's report)
- (13) VI. General Provision 3. CONJUNCTIVE ADMINISTRATION (page 10 of Part I of the director's report)
- (13) VI. General Provision 4. ADMINISTRATION OF GROUND WATER RIGHTS (page 10 of Part I of the director's report)
- (14) VI. General Provision 5. ADMINISTRATION OF BASIN 36 RELATIVE TO THE SNAKE RIVER (page 10 of Part I of the director's report)
- (15) VI. General Provision 6. ADMINISTRATION OF SMALL DOMESTIC AND STOCK WATER RIGHTS (page 11 of Part I of the director's report)
- (16) VI. General Provision 7. MEASURING DEVICES AND CONTROL

- WORKS (page 11 of Part I of the director's report)
- (17) VI. General Provision 8. FIRE FIGHTING PURPOSES (page 11 of Part I of the director's report)
 - (18) VI. General Provision 9. CONSUMPTIVE USE (page 12 of Part I of the director's report)
 - (19) VI. GENERAL PROVISION 10 APPLIES TO ALL WATER RIGHTS IN BASIN 36 SHOWN WITH DOMESTIC USE AS A PURPOSE OF USE (page 12 of Part I of the director's report)
 - (20) VI. General Provision 10. DOMESTIC USE (page 12 of Part I of the director's report)
 - (21) VI. GENERAL PROVISION 11 APPLIES TO ALL WATER RIGHTS IN BASIN 36 SHOWN WITH STOCK WATER USE AS A PURPOSE OF USE (page 13 of Part I of the director's report)
 - (22) VI. General Provision 11. STOCK WATER USE (page 13 of Part I of the director's report)
 - (23) VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS 12-16 APPLY TO ALL WATER RIGHTS IN BASIN 36 SHOWN WITH IRRIGATION AS A PURPOSE OF USE (page 13 of Part I of the director's report)
 - (24) VI. General Provision 12. IRRIGATION USE (pages 13-14 of Part I of the director's report)
 - (25) VI. General Provision 13. DIVERSION VOLUME FOR IRRIGATION (page 14 of Part I of the director's report)
 - (26) VI. General Provision 14. CONSUMPTIVE USE FOR IRRIGATION (pages 14-15 of Part I of the director's report)
 - (27) VI. General Provision 15. AMOUNT OF COMBINED WATER RIGHTS FOR IRRIGATION (page 15 of Part I of the director's report)
 - (28) VI. General Provision 16. DIVERSION RATES IN EXCESS OF .02 CFS PER ACRE (pages 15-16 of Part I of the director's report)
 - (30) VI. 17. INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF LIST OF RECOMMENDED WATER RIGHTS (pages A-i through A-iii of Part I of the director's report)
 - (31) VI. 18. IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES RECOMMENDED WATER RIGHTS ACQUIRED UNDER STATE LAW (pages A-1 through B-25 of Part I of the director's report)
 - (32) DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR REPORTING AREA 3 (BASIN 36), (DIRECTOR'S REPORT PART II)
 - (33) DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR REPORTING AREA 3 (BASIN 36), (DIRECTOR'S REPORT PART III)

The attachment also contains part VIII, AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES (pp. 20 through 28) and a PRAYER FOR RELIEF (untitled, p. 28).

In response to each of the items enumerated above IDWR responds that pursuant to Section 4 a.(2)(c) of SRBA Administrative Order 1, Rules of Procedure, IDWR generally denies each and every allegation, if any, contained in each enumerated portion of the attachment. IDWR affirmatively responds that neither SRBA Administrative Order 1, Rules of Procedure, nor Title 42, Chapter 14, Idaho Code, make provision for IDWR to affirm, amplify, or otherwise respond to the claimant's admissions, or to deny the claimant's denials, and that IDWR therefore does not believe that it is required to do so. Title 42, Chapter 14, Idaho Code solely defines the content and scope of the director's report. It is to contain a description of the water system and is to provide a recommendation as to each water right claimed and as to those matters necessary for administration of those water rights. Therefore, the content and scope of the objection is limited to those same matters. The attachment to the present objection asserts or otherwise raises matters not directly addressing the elements of the water right as recommended, the description of the water system, or the general provisions. Rather, the attachment raises broad issues as to the constitutional, statutory and administrative efficacy of the entire adjudication process. All such issues should be raised by means of motions to designate basinwide issues and similar procedural vehicles specifically designed to provide for basinwide notice and participation. They should not be permitted to divert the focus of any individual subcase away from the issues directly connected to the elements of the water right and the administration thereof. Therefore, because the attachment to the present objection is not within the scope of the statutory purpose of an objection it should be stricken.

However, in the event that the court should determine that all or part of the attachment is properly within the scope of the objection, IDWR further responds as follows:

IDWR affirmatively responds that all statements within the director's report are properly included therein pursuant to Title 42, Chapter 14, Idaho Code, and in particular pursuant to Idaho Code §§ 42-1411 and 42-1412(8); and that the provisions of the Idaho Rules of Civil Procedure regarding pleadings are inapplicable to the extent that they are in conflict with the statutory requirements. Therefore IDWR denies all allegations directed at the contents of the director's report.

As to the enumerated portions of the attachment addressing the listings of recommended water rights, abstracts of federal reserved water right claims, or negotiated agreements, other than the individual recommendation that is the subject of this objection, IDWR responds that such claims or agreements are not brought before this court by this objection.

Responding to the 27 affirmative defenses asserted in the attachment, IDWR generally denies each and every affirmative defense asserted. IDWR further responds that affirmative defense numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 18, and 22, asserting various violations of civil or constitutional rights, fail to comply with the requirements I.R.C.P. 9(b) providing that in all averments of violation of civil or constitutional rights the factual circumstances constituting such violation must be stated with particularity. Accordingly, IDWR asserts that those affirmative defenses should be stricken.

In response to that portion of the multi-page attachment to the objection wherein the claimant asserts a prayer for relief, IDWR responds as follows:

1. IDWR denies that the director's report asserts any claims against the claimant; rather, the director's report contains only the recommendation of the director as to how the claimant's water right should be decreed and administered.
2. IDWR denies that the claimant is entitled to have the water right decreed as claimed unless in the director's report the water right has been recommended as claimed.
3. IDWR denies that any acts upon its part constitute the taking of private property for which just compensation should be allowed and awarded.
4. IDWR denies that the claimant is entitled to recover court costs and reasonable attorney fees.
5. IDWR denies that the claimant by this objection has raised any claims against IDWR entitling such claimant to any relief other than the eventual judicial determination and decree of the various elements of the claimant's water right, if any, and of those related matters necessary to describe and administer that water right.