



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 • Website: www.idwr.idaho.gov

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN
Director

July 31, 2015

Candice M. McHugh
McHugh Bromley
380 S. 4th Street, Suite 103
Boise, Idaho 83702

Re: Moratorium in Administrative Basin 15 – WR Application No. 15-7394

Dear Ms. McHugh:

The Director has received your letter dated July 27, 2015 inquiring about a moratorium in Administrative Basin 15. The Director asked me to respond on his behalf.

Oneida County submitted a petition for a temporary moratorium in the Malad Basin due to their concerns about the ground water resource in the area. The Department has a few monitoring wells in the basin; those wells have exhibited declining water levels over recent years. The Department plans to hold a public information meeting in the basin later this year to discuss a Ground Water Management Area (GWMA) and/or temporary moratorium. Any decision to establish a GWMA or moratorium will be published pursuant to Idaho Code and the Department's Water Appropriation Rules before becoming effective.

You also requested that if an order is issued, your client's application no. 15-7394 be exempted from its provisions. It is premature to make a decision on that matter at this time.

Sincerely,

Jeff Peppersack
Chief, Water Allocation Bureau

Encl. (Oneida County Petition)
cc: IDWR Eastern Region
Mat Weaver

Oneida Co. Commission
Max C. Firth
Dale F. Tubbs
Shellee Smith Daniels



State of Idaho
10 Court Street
Malad City, Idaho 83252

RECEIVED

JAN 16 2015

Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

January 12, 2015

Mr. Lyle Swank
Idaho Department of Water Resources
900 North Skyline Drive, Suite A
Idaho Falls, ID 83402-1718

Re: *Oneida County – Malad Valley Ground Water*

Dear Mr. Swank:

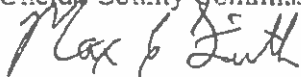
We are concerned about ground water resources and the volume of new wells being drilled in the Malad valley within Oneida County. Specifically, we have received numerous inquiries regarding the resources available and the rights of existing and future water users. We are concerned about the potential loss, diminishing resources, and jeopardy to existing wells.

For these reasons, we ask the Idaho Department of Water Resources to place a temporary moratorium on new well drilling pending a complete and thorough study by hydrologists and other related professionals with specific recommendations on how to proceed. If possible, we would like to see a moratorium placed on all well permits within the past twelve (12) months that have not begun drilling, as well as a moratorium placed on all new well applications for the next twelve (12) months.

Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated. Please feel free to contact us should you have questions or concerns.

Cordially,

Max C. Firth, Chairman
Oneida County Commissioner

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Max C. Firth".A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dale F. Tubbs".

Dale F. Tubbs,
Oneida County Commissioner

Shellee Smith Daniels,
Oneida County Commissioner

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shellee Smith Daniels".