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Attorney for Idaho Power Company

RECEIVED

MAR 15 2013

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

**BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OF THE STATE OF IDAHO**

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION)
FOR TRANSFER OF WATER RIGHT)
NO. 78441 in the name of Brandi and/or)
Kip Hunter)
_____)

NOTICE OF PROTEST

IDAHO POWER COMPANY (hereinafter "Protestant"), by and through its attorneys of record, BARKER ROSHOLT & SIMPSON LLP, hereby files this *Notice of Protest* to the approval of the above-numbered transfer filed by BRANDI AND/OR KIP HUNTER ("Applicant").

The initial bases for the protest are as follows:

1. The Applicant has failed to provide sufficient information and documentation about the proposed use of the water to address the Protestant's concerns as enumerated in the attached letter;
 2. The application violates the criteria of I.C. § 42-222;
 3. The application violates the Trust Water Area Moratorium dated April 30, 1993;
- and

NOTICE OF PROTEST

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Receipt # C096724

4. For such other and further reasons as may be discovered or set forth at the hearing on this matter. Protestant reserves the right to amend this protest as necessary.

DATED this 15th day of March, 2013.

BARKER ROSHOLT & SIMPSON LLP

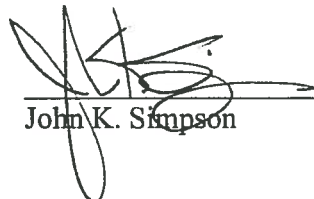


John K. Simpson
Attorneys for Idaho Power Company

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 15th day of March, 2013, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing *Notice of Protest*, by depositing same in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the following:

Brandi and Kip Hunter
467 S. 1600 W.
Pingree, ID 83262



John K. Simpson



James C. Tucker
jtucker@idahopower.com
208-388-2112

April 20, 2012

Gary Spackman
Director
Idaho Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 83270
Boise, Idaho 83702-0098

Re: Snake River Water Management and the Murphy Gage Minimum Stream Flows

Dear Director Spackman:

As you know, the Idaho Power Company is participating in the administrative proceeding before the Department involving certain water right applications in the Mountain Home area (*In the Matter of Application for Transfer No. 73811, et al*). The Company's interest in these applications stems from uncertainty as to whether ground water flows in the areas where the water is to be diverted influence the minimum flows in the Snake River at the Murphy Gage.

The State of Idaho, the Company, and interested stakeholders continue to work collaboratively on various issues related to the 2009 Framework Reaffirming the Swan Falls Settlement, including the development of appropriate measurement/monitoring protocols and management measures to ensure that the average daily minimum flows at the Murphy Gage, established under the State Water Plan and the Swan Falls Settlement, are maintained. To date, these efforts have centered on the assembly and consideration of relevant data and information associated with spring discharges, surface water and river flows and Company operations. This collaborative effort is an extension of the explicit recognition in the State Water Plan and the Swan Falls Settlement that the effective management of the ESPA and the Snake River is the principle means for ensuring that the Murphy minimum flows are maintained.

The effective management of the ESPA and the Snake River also involves considerations relative to the management and administration of "trust water"¹. The current draft of the revised State Water Plan (2012) provides that the opportunity for further development of trust water is currently limited by three factors – (1) uncertainty over the relative rights of senior water right holders for uses other than hydropower to the spring flows in the Thousand Springs Reach; (2)

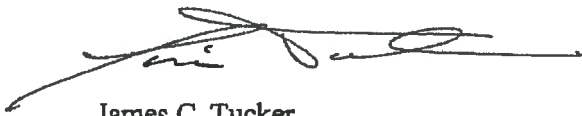
¹ The Department's rules define trust water as: Trust water flows under the Snake River water rights agreement are located in the Snake river between Swan Falls Dam located in Section 18, Township 2 South, Range 1 East, Boise Meridian (B.M.) and Milner Dam located in Sections 28 and 29, Township 10 South, Range 21 East, Boise Meridian (B.M.) and all surface and groundwater sources tributary to the Snake River in that Reach. (IDAPA 37.03.08.031(a))

term limited trust water rights that are to be subject to a public interest review by the Department in the near future; and (3) a moratorium on the issuance of new water rights within the trust water area. Consideration of these and other relevant factors affecting the allocation of trust water and the management of the ESPA and Snake River below Milner Dam are also instructed by the ongoing refinement of the ESPA model.

In the 2009 Framework Reaffirming the Swan Falls Settlement, the State and the Company also recognized that it was in their mutual long-term interest to cooperate regarding management of the water resources of the Snake River Basin, including water management issues associated with the "trust" and "non-trust" water areas. It is in this context that the Company is participating in the above referenced proceeding involving water right applications in the Mountain Home area and the Company anticipates that it may also participate in other proceedings before the Department involving water right applications that seek to appropriate water that may relate to the allocation of trust water or otherwise affect the minimum stream flows at the Murphy Gage.

The Company looks forward to working with you and your staff on these important issues. Please let me know if you would like to meet and discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James C. Tucker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James C. Tucker

JCT:sh

cc: Garrick Baxter/Idaho AG-IDWR
Clive Strong/Idaho AG