

Oneida Co. Commission

Joe J. Daniels
Cecil C. Sweeten
Larry Etherington



Shirlee Blaisdell
Clerk, Auditor & Recorder

State of Idaho
10 Court Street

Malad City, Idaho 83252

Nate Arave
Idaho Department of Water Resources
900 N. Skyline Dr. Ste. A
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

March 9, 2009

Dear Mr. Arave:

We, the Oneida County Commissioners, have grave concerns about the number of irrigation wells approved in our county. We are seeing a negative effect on springs that fill our reservoirs and provide irrigation and stock water in our county.

We, as a board of Commissioners, would like to see a moratorium on irrigation well permits in our county. We feel that culinary wells are in jeopardy and the habitability of our county is also in jeopardy.

We, as a board of Commissioners, find it necessary to put culinary usage and the surface water rights that have existed in our county, historically, as a priority, before any future well drilling occurs for the purpose of watering additional agricultural acreage.

We have watched springs and artesian wells decline in flow over the past several years. There have been many large wells drilled in our county to support large irrigation systems over the past several years, and as a board of Commissioners, we would like to see this practice stopped.

At this point in time we would like to be on record as opposing application permit #15-7308, for the Peoa River Valley Ranch. We would also like to be on record as being in opposition to any other wells of this nature that are being considered or may be presented in the future to the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

Any well permits approved in the future should be done with the stipulation that they be shut down should a negative effect be shown on any area springs or wells that were in existence prior to the new well being put into operation.

Sincerely,

Obviously, the situation has
NOT improved since 2009

- was this addressed other than pursuant
to this application? Moratorium on well

RECEIVED

MAR 11 2009

Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

