



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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November 8, 2010

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN
Interim Director

Mary Lee Blackford
798 High Valley Road
PO Box 5
Ola, ID 83657

RE: Beal Dam #1
Dam Safety Inspection

COPY

IDWR File: 65-2965
Nat'l Dam ID: ID00730

Dear Ms. Blackford:

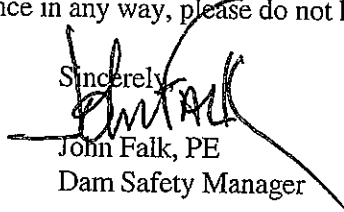
Beal Dam #1 was inspected by a representative of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Dam Safety program on August 17, 2010. The periodic inspection of existing dams and reservoirs is mandated by Idaho statute to help protect downstream life and property from the consequences of a dam failure and uncontrolled release of water; however, please be advised that the dam owner is responsible and potentially liable for any damages to downstream life and property resulting from the failure of the dam.

The result of the site inspection indicates the structure has not impounded water for several years due to a broken outlet gate in an open position that allows the reservoir to drain completely. In addition, maintenance appears not to have been performed for many years, and most places on the downstream side of the dam could not be accessed due to a heavy growth of brush and trees. Based on IDWR file history and the observed unsatisfactory condition of the embankment and appurtenant works, IDWR authorization for storage of water is hereby withheld. A copy of the inspection report is enclosed.

During the course of research, we discovered that a storage right equal to 44 acre-feet exists for this empty reservoir. The amount of storage is unusual because the dam site appears to have a potential maximum storage capacity no greater than approximately 14 or 15 acre-feet. Please be advised that state water law allows for the forfeiture of a water right following five (5) years of consecutive non-use. For reasons of public safety and adherence with established Idaho statutes, IDWR dam safety makes special request of you that this earthen dam be restored to a safe and satisfactory condition or the facility be permanently breached to prevent any amount of future impoundment of water.

Apparently, the dam and reservoir is located on Boise National Forest lands. IDWR would be receptive to the U.S. Forest Service restoring the dam and acquiring the associated water right. Should you have any questions or if we can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,


John Falk, PE
Dam Safety Manager

cc: Shelley Keen – Water Rights
Jeff Alexander – Boise National Forest Headquarters
John Westra – Western Regional Office

Enc: 2010 Inspection Report