



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Western Region, 2735 Airport Way, Boise, Idaho 83705-5082 - (208) 334-2190

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August 18, 2006

JAMES E. RISCH
Governor

KARL J. DREHER
Director

WADE &/OR NICKI PALMER
5541 DIAMOND RIDGE WY
NAMPA ID 83686

Re: Application for Transfer of Water Right Nos. 63-31925 and 63-31927

Dear Applicants:

You recently filed an application for transfer to change the above referenced water rights. Processing of the application must be delayed as explained below.

The application describes water rights for which Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) Claims have been filed. SRBA Claims in the area affected by the transfer applications are currently being reviewed. The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) role in the SRBA is to review claims and make recommendations regarding those claims to the SRBA Court. Recommendations are presented to the court in a Director's Report. Potentially affected parties may object to recommendations in a Director's Report. This process introduces uncertainty regarding water rights until the objection period is over.

IDWR's limited staff resources must be used to complete the remaining Director's Reports during the coming months. Additionally, experience indicates that processing an application for transfer in an area where a Director's Report is being prepared can result in confusion and complications by mixing judicial (SRBA) and administrative (transfer) actions.

The SRBA objection period for the area in question is expected to conclude by next spring if not earlier. Based on that schedule and the above reasoning, the application cannot be processed at this time. IDWR will hold the transfer application and will notify you at the appropriate time when it can be processed.

IDWR regrets the inconvenience undoubtedly caused by this necessary delay. Meanwhile, the ownership update included with your application can be completed while the application remains on hold. The ownership update will be important in completing the adjudication process. Please contact me at 208-334-2190 if you have any questions in this regard.

Sincerely,

Steve Lester
Water Rights Supervisor