



IDAHO FISH & GAME

SOUTHEAST REGION
1345 Barton Road
Pocatello, Idaho 83204-1819

March 6, 1997

Philip E. Batt/Governor
Stephen P. Mealey/Director

Harold W. Jones
Water Right Supervisor
Idaho Department of Water Resources
900 N. Skyline Dr.
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402-1718

RECEIVED
MAR 10 1997
Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

Re: Application 01-07128 - Idaho Power Company

Dear Skip,

Department personnel have reviewed the water right application by Idaho Power Company (IPC) for 7,850 cfs for power generation at American Falls Dam and have questions. It is unclear to us why IPC is filing this water right. American Falls Dam has been in operation since 1927 and it is our understanding that the use of this water for power generation is granted under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license. If the amount of water applied for exceeds that granted by the FERC license or that which has been released historically, it could potentially impact fish and wildlife resources. **While we are not protesting this application, we would like to attend the pre-hearing conference to learn more about this situation so we can evaluate potential fish and wildlife impacts.**

We appreciate the opportunity to review this application and provide comments.

Sincerely,

Dexter R. Pitman
Regional Supervisor

DRP/JRL/jrl

cc: Jim Lukens
Lon Teeter
Natural Resources Policy Bureau
Idaho Power Company