

Receipt # E023033

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Marti L. Bridges
Water Policy Director
Idaho Rivers United
P.O. Box 633
Boise, ID 83701

RECEIVED

MAR 17 1997

Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

March 13, 1997

208-343-7481

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

IN THE MATTER OF
APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO
APPROPRIATE WATER,
RIGHT NO. 01-07128, IN THE NAME OF
IDAHO POWER COMPANY
OF BOISE, IDAHO

OK as protest
~~PROTEST AND PETITION TO~~
INTERVENE

Idaho Rivers United is an Idaho non-profit corporation representing citizens in improving river and stream management in keeping with public interest and public trust considerations. Our 1600 members use and enjoy the Snake River for recreational boating, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography and contemplative recreational use. Idaho Rivers United has a direct and substantial interest in the above proceedings in that many of our members could be negatively impacted by the proposed appropriation of water for hydropower.

American Rivers, Inc. is a nationwide non-profit corporation representing both its Idaho members and other citizens in improving river and stream management in keeping with the public interest and public trust considerations. American Rivers, Inc. has been actively engaged with Idaho Rivers United in the on-going relicensing process for Idaho Power Company's dams on the Snake River.

Both organizations are concerned that new appropriations of water from the Snake River will adversely impact the affected reach by impairing the recreational experience, by causing adverse impacts to resident fish and wildlife habitat, reducing instream flows, raising water temperatures and

further impairing water quality. The issuance of this water right may cause irretrievable impacts to the Snake River and is not in the public interest.

In summary, we believe that approval of this water right application is not in the "local public interest" under IC 42-203A(5); is contrary to the conservation of water resources within the State of Idaho under IC-42-203A(5); and may be speculative in nature.

Idaho Rivers United and American Rivers request that a hearing be scheduled to consider the public impacts that this proposed water right may have recommend denial of the water right application until such hearing occurs. Laird Lucas of the Land and Water Fund is designated counsel for Idaho Rivers United and American Rivers, Inc.

Please include American Rivers, Inc. and Idaho Rivers United on the service list

Sincerely,

Dated March 13, 1997

Marti L. Bridges

Marti L. Bridges
Water Policy Director

copies mailed to:

Karl Dreher, Director
Idaho Dept. of Water Resources
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720

Ron Carlson, Regional Director
Dept. of Water Resources
Eastern Region
900 N. Skyline
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Laird Lucas
Land and Water Fund of the Rockies
P.O. Box 1612
Boise, ID 83701

Rob Masonis
American Rivers
Northwest Regional Office
400 E. Pine St., Ste 225
Seattle, WA 98122

Idaho Power Company
P.O. Box 70
Boise, ID 83707

Rosholt, Robertson & Tucker
P.O. Box 1906
Twin Falls, ID 83303-1906