

22 December 2005

To Whom It May Concern:



DEC 23 2005
Department of Water Resources
Eastern District Office

In writing this letter, my purpose is to file a complaint in the strongest terms possible with regards to the well the city of Blackfoot is drilling on Merkely Lane east of the city. Their chosen site for this well is in proximity to my farm irrigation well. Since 1977, this irrigation well has delivered ample water for 145 acres of crop land and I am concerned that my water supply may be compromised.

During the summer of 2005, I met with Mayor Reese, Ron Harwell, and Mr. Mangum at my irrigation well site to discuss the city's plan. I expressed to them my concerns for the possible problem of inadequate water supply for both pumps. With the wells being in proximity to each other, each well/pump would be competing for the same supply of water. Mr. Harwell asked for permission to test my well, which I granted, and I gave him a copy of all information I had on file with regard to my well. I was told the city would keep me informed of their plans, but I have received no information from them, either written or verbal.

A short time later I met with the 'State of Idaho Department of Water Resources'. I was told that 'senior water rights' would prevail.

In August of 2005 I received a call from a firm in Idaho Falls asking for permission to test my well. Over the next few weeks I cooperated with them, expressing my concerns again, as I had to the city of Blackfoot. I asked for a copy of the report but have had no word.

To date I have received no information on any study or plans from any of the above offices or agencies.

In approximately mid September I noticed Idaho Power Co. putting in a new power line on Merkely Lane. I was told by the Power Co. that it will supply power for a new city well.

On December 20, 2005 I saw a Cushman drilling rig set up on Merkely Lane and it appears to be drilling a well head.

On December 20, 2005 I also called newly elected Mayor Mike Virtue and expressed the above mentioned concerns. He informed me he would look into the matter.

On December 21, 2005 I again called the 'State of Idaho Department of Water Resources' and was told they had authorized the city to drill a well, but they were not aware of the proximity of the two wells. Mr. Carlson, of that office, strongly suggested I write a letter of complaint to all concerned, for later use, if the matter is not resolved and goes to the next level.

It will be disastrous if I turn on my pump early in the spring of 2006 and insufficient water is delivered to irrigate crops, ultimately resulting in a crop loss. It would be equally disastrous -- and costly-- if the city were to turn on their pump and the water discharged were less than expected or needed for the residents of this housing development. With a domestic well being close to active agricultural ground the possible presence of nitrates, herbicides, insecticides, etc. must be considered. This would be just the first year of some serious ongoing problems.

All this can be avoided by relocating the city pump site to the other side of the housing development, one quarter mile to the west.

I hope we can sit down and discuss this matter and resolve it in an amicable way.

The following individuals will receive a copy of this letter: Scott Reese, Mike Virtue, Cushman Well Drilling, and The State of Idaho Department of Water Resources.

Sincerely, a concerned neighbor and landowner,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DeVon R. Woodland', with a stylized, cursive script.

DeVon R. Woodland

**DeVon R. Woodland
53 East Rich Lane
Blackfoot, ID 83221**

208-785-0959