

Birch Creek Ranches, L.L.C.

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RECEIVED

AUG 13 1998

Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

8/11/98

12:21 PM

Don Shenton
Water Master
Water District 32-D
P.O. Box 33
Dubois, ID 83423

RE: WATER MEASUREMENTS IN POWER CHANNEL

Dear Mr. Shenton:

This letter is written in response to your letter of July 21, 1998.

1. Your question: Why didn't I confront you last year about taking measurements in the power channel? Answer: Last year you were taking them adjacent to the highway weir. This year you were taking measurements (if my information is correct) downstream from the highway weir near the inlet to the inverted siphon. I would like a copy of these measurements and am, hereby, requesting the same.
2. Set up of the weir at the penstock inlet for measurements this year. I offered this to you because I figured you wanted accurate measurements. The weir operates with plenty of aeration and nappe development. If you are not interested, I am not either. You can't use the sum of D-D and Newman weirs as they are not using all the water going through the power plant.
3. Location of current and future weir on the power channel. You are right, the original permit called for two measuring devices, one at the power channel diversion from Birch Creek and one at the inlet to the penstock.

The weir at the power channel diversion was moved downstream to the highway crossing at your request. I asked you to get the permission from all parties which you assured me you had done. I then built the weir structure at the highway location at your direction. I paid you to build and install the weir boards.

The measuring device at the end of the feeder canal was originally a propeller meter located in the pipeline just upstream of the powerhouse. Ice damaged this device every winter. You also wanted weirs immediately downstream of the powerhouse on each of the irrigators' ditches. You suggested I participate in the construction of these weirs so that I (or you) could use them to monitor bedloss in the power channel as well as the water delivery to each irrigator. I, therefore, furnished design drawings at no cost for both the D-D and Wilding weir structures. I furnished the lion's share of the cash to build the Wilding weir. I also furnished the backhoe to Clark Brothers to use on the excavation of D-D weir as you wanted it downstream near the road. Clark Brothers tore the rear end out of the backhoe which had to be repaired at my expense.

The reason I installed a weir at the penstock inlet last year was that I could not get accurate measurements on the D-D and Newman (Wilding) weirs because they were constantly adjusting the amount of water diverted to the desert outfall, which has no weir. This season they cannot use all the water and, therefore, water has been wasted to the desert outfall all year. When the diversion ditch to my land below the powerhouse is built, I plan to place a weir at the head of the ditch. Excess water wasted to the desert will stop and the downstream measurement would then be the sum of the three weirs.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ted Sorenson", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ted S. Sorenson

TSS:mjm

cc: IDWR - Idaho Falls
Kent Foster