



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1301 North Orchard Street, P.O. BOX 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

Phone: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866

July 1, 1997

PHILIP E. BATT
GOVERNOR

KARL J. DREHER
DIRECTOR

VIC CONRAD
SIMPLOT LAND AND DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 27
BOISE ID 83707-0027

RE: Water Right No. 11-07438

Dear Vic:

I received your June 24, 1997, letter, and I see no problem with allowing you until August 1, 1997, to look into the questions you have raised regarding the amendment request for permit 11-07438. I will look forward to seeing your response on August 1.

I understand that you are still interested in the renumbering of this permit from 27-07294 to 11-07438. IDWR bases its administrative basin boundaries, and therefore its water right numbers, on surface water drainage boundaries. The number associated with a ground water right does not reflect a determination that the aquifer is hydrologically connected to the surface water in one administrative basin as opposed to a neighboring basin. Making such a determination is a much more complicated exercise than assigning a number based on surface water hydrology. It is much more practical for IDWR to number ground water rights according to the administrative basin in which the point of diversion is located.

Permit 11-07438 was originally numbered 27-07294 because it was thought to be diverted in an area where the surface water is tributary to the Blackfoot River. The Blackfoot River drainage is IDWR's administrative basin no. 27. A closer inspection showed it to be in a location where the surface water flows toward the Bear River, or administrative basin no. 11. So far as I know, the actual hydrologic connection of your well to one surface drainage or the other has not been determined. If conjunctive management of surface and ground water is established in the area, I believe you will have an opportunity to present to IDWR whatever information you may have to indicate a hydrologic connection with one basin instead of another.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 208-327-7946.

Respectfully,

Shelley Walter Keen
Water Rights Supervisor