



State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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R. KEITH HIGGINSON
DIRECTOR

May 13, 1994

ROBERT HENGGELER
CHAIRMAN WATER DIST 65
102 MAIN
PAYETTE ID 83661

RE: Water District 65 Water Distribution Records for 1993

Dear Mr. Henggeler:

During the April 26, 1994, meeting of the Payette River Water District Advisory Board, I agreed to prepare a letter documenting the Department position relative to Water District 65 water distribution records for 1993. The purpose of this letter is to provide this documentation.

1993 was the first year that the Department of Water Resources compiled computerized records describing water diversions in Water District 65. It also is the first year that official documentation of Cascade and Deadwood Reservoir information was prepared by this Department rather than the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. As with any complex records-keeping system there is a transition period while records are converted from one system to another. While the Payette River Water District has many similarities to other water districts throughout the state, it is also unique in many ways. Computerized records-keeping is not totally straight forward, and many decisions must be made relative to water right accounting in the basin.

The preparation of 1993 records, and the detailed and necessarily critical review of these records have resulted in the identification of some modifications to the computerized system. For example, the 1993 records do not include an operational flow through Seven Mile Slough, and we now recognize that such a flow is necessary for proper operation of the distribution system. As another example, we have identified a need to develop a methodology for distributing operational losses over Black Canyon Dam. Changes to the computerized 1993 water records could result in modifications of flow records accounting and storage amounts.

May 18, 1994

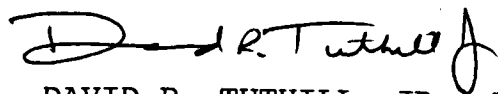
At this point we are faced with two options. One option is to continue to modify and update the 1993 records based on new information. The benefit of this option is that records will be as consistent as possible from year to year. The disadvantage of this option is that such updates can be time-consuming and costly, and if the Payette River Basin reservoir system fills to within 130,000 acre feet of capacity this spring, such modifications will not impact carryover storage amounts for 1994.

The other option is to follow the precedent set in other basins, where as improvements are made to the computerized system those improvements are applied to the present and future years, but they are not applied to earlier years. In this way the water users do not have to be concerned about modifications to historic records when improved techniques for water accounting are developed.

It is my understanding that the Advisory Board found the second option to be acceptable relative to the 1993 water records if the reservoirs do fill to within 130,000 acre feet of capacity this spring. If the reservoir fill shortfall exceeds this amount, the Department will be willing to reconsider this decision and will consider updating the 1993 records further. By adopting option two at this point we can focus on enhancing and improving the water accounting techniques for this and future years. The 1993 records that have been provided thus far remain the official records of the Department, with the understanding that water accounting techniques for subsequent years will not be limited to the techniques developed for 1993.

We look forward to continuing to improve this computerized system during the coming months.

Sincerely,



DAVID R. TUTHILL, JR., P.E.
Manager, Western Regional Office

DRT:st

CC: Scott Campbell, Esq.
Norm Young
Bob Sutter