



State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1301 North Orchard Street, Statehouse Mail, Boise, Idaho 83720-9000
Phone: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866

DR Steve ✓
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SEP 15 1994

WATER RESOURCES
WESTERN REGION

CECIL D. ANDRUS
GOVERNOR

R. KEITH HIGGINSON
DIRECTOR

September 15, 1994

James Spencer
Idaho Region Engineer
Boise Cascade
P.O. Box 217
Emmett, ID 83617

Re: Boise Cascade Emmett Mill Water Diversion

Dear Jim:

I wish to thank you for providing me some time on August 3 to review the Boise Cascade Emmett plant water diversion system and water uses. The purpose of this letter is to notify you as to how the Department and Water District 65 decided to proceed with the measurement of the Boise Cascade-Smith Ditch diversion. I will also provide you with some updated storage use figures for this year.

For the purpose of determining the amount of water diverted from the Payette River for the Boise Cascade-Smith Ditch diversion, the Department and Water District 65 decided to implement the steps outlined below.

1) Every two to three weeks, a staff member current meters the main ditch between the headgate/control structure and the first spillway structure (spillway structure next to fire pumps). From this amount, a credit is given for water which returns to the river at the first spillway structure. The staff member measures the head of water over the spillway structure and estimates this flow using a standard weir formula. Credit is not given for water which returns to the river at the second spillway located at the west end of the plant near the Smith Ditch headgate and the Emmett City treatment ponds. The amount of water measured by the staff member is used as the daily diversion for the Boise Cascade-Smith Ditch diversion for the following two weeks, or until the ditch is measured again. When all of the natural flow rights for the diversion are once again deliverable, storage will not accrue.

2) The Smith Ditch is not measured separately from the main Boise Cascade-Smith Ditch diversion described above. In other words, the Smith Ditch and Boise Cascade uses are combined under one diversion and only one storage use bill will be prepared for both parties. Boise Cascade and the water users on the Smith Ditch will have to work out among themselves the payment of the storage use bill.

This will be the method used in ensuing years unless Boise Cascade

and the Smith Ditch users install separate measuring devices or propose an acceptable alternative.

I realize that I advised you at our meeting that I would probably recommend measuring the Smith Ditch separately and provide credit for the second spill site. Upon reviewing this matter with other Department staff and the Water District, we have decided that the above method is the most reasonable and practical. This decision is based in part on our understanding that Boise Cascade has an agreement with the users on Smith Ditch to furnish water to the heading of the Smith Ditch.

On August 15, staff current metered the main ditch below the headgate and control structure and estimated the return flow over the first spillway structure using a standard weir formula (standard rectangular suppressed weir). The current meter discharge was 26.7 cfs, and the estimated weir flow at the first spillway was 14.1 cfs. The difference between these flows, or the net diversion rate, was 12.6 cfs. This 12.6 cfs flow is then the daily diversion rate entered for the Boise Cascade-Smith Ditch diversion for the period August 15 to August 28.

The diversion was measured again on September 7. On this date, the current meter discharge on the main ditch was 36.54 cfs while estimated weir flow at the first spill structure was 20.3 cfs. The difference, or total diversion, was 16.24 cfs. Staff also current metered the Smith Ditch in order to get some idea of what the split use is between this ditch and the Boise Cascade plant. Flow in the Smith Ditch was measured at 10.3 cfs. The difference between the total diversion and the Smith Ditch flow, or Boise Cascade's use, was 5.94 cfs. Based on natural flow priority cuts as of September 7, all of Boise Cascade's use is considered storage while 8.4 cfs of the 10.3 cfs total flow in the Smith Ditch is storage.

The Boise Cascade-Smith Ditch diversion 1994 storage use through September 11th is 1607 acre-feet. Natural flow priority rights on the Payette River were cut beginning in April for this year. Given the present available natural flow and priority cuts, the Boise Cascade-Smith Ditch diversion is diverting about 28.5 acre-feet of storage per day. Assuming that conditions remain constant for the remainder of the season, estimated total storage use through October 15 would be about 2,576 acre-feet. At a cost of \$2.70 per acre-foot for rental pool storage water, the total 1994 storage assessment for the Boise Cascade-Smith Ditch diversion would be \$6,955. As natural flow availability in the Payette River for 1994 is at or near the lowest ever, these numbers probably represent a worst case scenario.

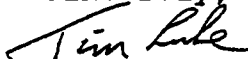
During 1993, natural flow rights in the Payette River were not cut until mid-July. Natural flow rights with priority dates prior to 1938 were not cut at all in 1993. This means that Boise Cascade's 1916 priority right would not have been cut during 1993. Storage use should not have accrued for this diversion as long as the total diversion rate did not exceed the combined Boise Cascade and Smith

Ditch pre-1938 water right diversion rates, which is about 21 cfs. The 1993 water supply was somewhat above normal. In most normal years, the Boise Cascade-Smith Ditch storage use should be minimal or zero.

I hope this information addresses your concerns about the measurement methodology and expected annual storage use. Please contact me or Bob Sutter at this office, or Dave Tuthill, Western Regional Manager at 334-2190, if you have questions concerning this matter.

You are also advised to immediately contact Water District 65 watermaster Helen Bivens in Payette regarding the rental of storage water for this year. Helen's office number is 642-3866. You may need to immediately pay for rental of storage water or else risk possible curtailment of your diversion. I believe the watermaster recently provided some notice about rental of storage water. Questions regarding that notice and rental pool water should be directed to the watermaster.

Sincerely,



Tim Luke
Hydrologist
Water Allocations

cc: Helen Bivens, Watermaster
Unimin Corp, Smith Ditch
Johnson Smith, Smith Ditch
Robert Steinbach, Smith Ditch
Ellis Vogel, Smith Ditch
J.G. Fay, Smith Ditch
Bob Sutter, IDWR
Dave Tuthill, IDWR

RKH
Oct 4

Noble Ditch Co., Ltd.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 102 N Main
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Payette, ID 83661

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OCT 17 1994

Department of Water Resources

October 13, 1994

R. Keith Higginson, director
Department of Water Resources
1301 North Orchard Street
Statehouse Mail
Boise, ID 83720-9000

Dear Mr. Higginson:

We, the Board of Directors of Noble Ditch Company, Ltd. would like to offer our sincere apology for the unauthorized telephone call to you by our ditch rider, Donald York.

This call was made without just cause and without the knowledge or approval of any of the Directors of the Noble Ditch Company, and has jeopardized not only the credibility of Noble Ditch Company, but also the credibility of Water District # 65.

Mr. York has since been dismissed.

We sincerely hope you will accept our apology for this unfortunate incident.

Sincerely,

Cecil E. Hill
Cecil Hill, Chairman

Larry Schmelzel
Larry Schmelzel, Vice Chairman

Ron Mio
Ron Mio, Director

Marc Shigeta
Marc Shigeta, Director