

ND65 —

RECEIVED

AUG 10 1995

WATER RESOURCES  
WESTERN REGION

**INDUSTRIES, INC.**

Telephone (208) 345-7515 • FAX (208) 345-7028

1401 Shoreline Dr. • P. O. Box 2797 • Boise, Idaho 83701

August 7, 1995

Mark Limbaugh  
102 N. Main Street  
Watermaster, District No. 65  
Payette, ID 83661

Subject: August 1, 1995 flow fluctuations  
Horseshoe Bend Hydroelectric Project

Dear Mark:

This is a review of our discussion by phone on August 1, 1995. We had finished repairing the spillway, and had begun to operate the canal around 1 PM on August 1. This was the first time that we had run the plant since the river had dropped to normal irrigation flows.

We opened the canal gates to allow 2,000 cfs to enter the canal. This reduced the flow in the bypass reach to 500 cfs. We started the turbines to pass the 2,000 cfs, but we did not realize that the river would continue to run at 2,500 cfs for another hour while the bypass reach drained out. Thus, the river below the project ran at approximately 4,500 cfs for an hour, until the bypass reach was drained, whereupon the flow reverted to the normal river flow of 2,500 cfs.

This flow increase was the result of starting project operations, and should not recur under normal operating conditions.

An interesting fact is that the change of 2,000 cfs for an hour at the Horseshoe Bend Hydroelectric Plant only caused a change of 200 cfs at Black Canyon. That change was an increase in flow for the day, which we did not think would affect irrigators. However, you have made clear to us the importance of communicating with you if we make this type of change in the future. We understand that you are tracking total river flow, and that you must make up for natural reductions in runoff, as well as increases due to thundershowers. Our operations have the potential of throwing off those predictions, if you do not refer to the USGS gage above Horseshoe Bend. Even with the flows indicated by that gage, there are still two drainages and the Horseshoe Bend Hydroelectric Project to modify the flow before it reaches Black Canyon, though the Horseshoe Bend Hydroelectric Project, which is a run-of-river project, cannot affect total flows.

In the future, we will inform you in advance of any operations that may cause flow fluctuations at Black Canyon. During normal operations, we should not alter the flow at all, and you should find us to be a transparent user of the water in the river.

You have made us aware of the size of flow fluctuations that you can live with, and we believe that operation of the Horseshoe Bend Hydroelectric Project will not exceed those changes. We have been on line since August 1, and it is our understanding that there have been no further problems with flow fluctuations during that period.

We appreciate your willingness to work us. Please give me a call if you have any questions. The powerhouse number is 793-2833, Fax 793-2675. My home number is 383-4876.

Best Regards,

HORSESHOE BEND HYDROELECTRIC COMPANY

*Mark H Dawson*

Mark H. Dawson, P.E.  
Manager of Operations

cc: Mr. Brick Andrew, WD65  
Mr. Dave Tuthill, IDWR  
Ms. Sheryl Howe, IDWR  
Mr. Rick Wells, BOR  
Black Canyon Dam Operators  
Black Canyon Irrigation District  
Emmett Irrigation District  
Farmer's Co-op Irrigation Company  
Noble Ditch Company  
Lower Payette Ditch Company