



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

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

KARL J. DREHER
DIRECTOR

July 28, 2000

RE: **Report on Petition to Appoint Lateral Ditch Manager
Resolutions to address delivery problems on Ditches**

Dear Water User:

As you may know the department held a meeting on July 12th to discuss the petition from Gary and Paula Nelson to appoint a lateral ditch manager for the Barker, Rice Lessey and Lessey ditches in the Elba Valley. The meeting was well attended by water users on these ditches.

At the meeting there was general consensus that it was too late in the year to appoint a lateral manager for this season so the petition for this season was withdrawn by Mr. Nelson.

During the discussion numerous problems were identified which affects delivery on these ditches. The problems included:

- Lack of Measuring Devices to equitably distribute water
- Lower water users being shorted on water delivery
- Lack of Maintenance on portions of ditches
- Large losses in ditches due to length and soil type
- Lack of communication and cooperation between users
- Clogged flume on Barker Ditch

Realizing that without a cooperative effort on the part of the water users, they may be faced with future petitions for a lateral manager which will ultimately add an additional expense to be shared by all, it was resolved by the water users that the users would:

- Evaluate the conditions of the ditches and meet again by October 1, 2000 to plan to improve the ditches over the winter.
- Investigate and plan for installation of measuring devices by next spring on all diversions from the ditches.

You are encouraged to do your share and cooperate in this effort to solve the problems of delivery on these ditches, thus avoiding further action by the state to appoint a lateral manager.

If you have questions please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Allen Merritt, PE
Southern Region Manager

CC: Watermaster Water District 43-C

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages
To	<i>Nancy [unclear] Tim Luke</i>	From	<i>Allen Merritt</i>
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCE
 1341 Fillmore St. Suite 200
 Twin Falls Idaho, 83301-3380
 (208)736-5033
 Attn: Allen Merritt and Kelly Christensen

RECEIVED
JUN 30 2000

Department of Water Resources
 Southern Region

GARY AND PAULA NELSON
 1950S H92W box 465
 Elba Idaho, 83326
 (208)638-5534

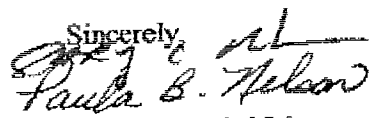
WATER RESOURCE BOARD:

In accordance with House Bill No. 263, Chapter 13 section 42-1308, we are petitioning to have a lateral or ditch manager for the Barker, Rice Lessey, and Lessey ditches in the Elba Valley.

We are on the end of the Lessey and Barker ditches. It is becoming more and more difficult to get our water to our property. The water master puts the adequate amount of water in the lateral but because of the other water users above us our decreed water doesn't reach us or is greatly diminished. There are none or few measuring devices on the ditches. Many use numerous cuts in the lateral. Pumping is taking place directly from the lateral without going through any measuring device. Rocks are being used in damming up the ditch so it will overflow in numerous places. Consequently many are taking much much more that their decreed amount.

We would petition the Water Resource Board to investigate the happenings on the ditches in the Elba Valley. We have lost one crop already this year alone. If there is anything that can be done immediately we would appreciate your quick response.

We appreciate your help on this matter. Please notify us as soon as possible as to your plan of action. This has been an ongoing problem for many years and needs to be rectified.

Sincerely,

 Gary and Paula Nelson

Unreasonable people make reasonable people do unreasonable things! -Unknown-

Young, Norm

From: Merritt, Allen
Sent: Monday, July 03, 2000 11:48 AM
To: Young, Norm; Luke, Tim
Cc: Christensen, Kelly
Subject: Petition for Lateral Ditch Manager on ditches in the Elba Valley

We received a packet of information for Kelly Christensen to use in his SRBA review. Included in the packet was a petition to appoint a lateral ditch manager on several ditches in the Elba area. I have faxed the petition to you. Maybe when Tim gets back we can talk about this with Kelly and devise a plan. Kelly knows all the actors in this area and will be able to identify who to notify of the petition.

Young, Norm

From: Young, Norm
Sent: Monday, July 03, 2000 11:56 AM
To: Merritt, Allen
Subject: RE: Petition for Lateral Ditch Manager on ditches in the Elba Valley

Allen:

Shouldn't we get on with responding to the petition as quickly as possible? Section 42-1308 provides for us to:

- 1) Get watermaster recommendation.
- 2) Provide copies to all water users on the lateral and give 14 days to respond unless it is an emergency.

If these actions could be taken today, action on the petition could be expedited when Tim is available to discuss.

Norm