

WD 36-A



**State of Idaho**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

322 East Front Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098  
Phone: (208) 287-4800 FAX: (208) 287-6700 www.idwr.idaho.gov

**JAMES E. RISCH**  
Governor

**KARL J. DREHER**  
Director

October 19, 2006

Mr. J. Dee May  
May, Sudweeks & Browning, LLP  
P.O. Box 1846  
Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-1846

Dear Mr. May,

Thank you for expressing your concerns on October 12, 2006 related to the Idaho Department of Water Resources (Department) initiative to provide additional monitoring of spring flows at the Rangen Inc. (Rangen) aquiculture facility near Hagerman.

As you may already know, this initiative is part of the monitoring program authorized under Section 42-620 Idaho Code. The purposes are to monitor conditions of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) and maintain and update the ESPA ground water model. In order to accomplish this, the Department is proposing continuous monitoring at approximately 28 springs in the Thousand Springs area and near the upper end of American Falls Reservoir.

With respect to the Rangen facility, the existing monitoring location at Curren Tunnel captures discharge from the very upper portion of the spring complex. The aquiculture facility captures additional flow below Curren Tunnel, and the measurements taken by Rangen represent ground water discharge from a larger portion of the spring complex. However, for model calibration, we desire to monitor as much of the flow at the spring complex as possible. We believe that monitoring at a location between the outflow from your facility and Vader Road, including the adjacent flow in Billingsley Creek, will accomplish this goal. The data from this location will also provide Water District 36A a better understanding of Billingsley Creek reach gains and can be used for Rangen's measurement reporting.

The data currently submitted by Rangen fulfills Department measuring and reporting requirements for diversions, and we expect that any measurements we take will corroborate your data. If our plans materialize, we will transmit the data via telemetry to Boise and enter it into a database. We would also include the previous readings submitted by Rangen in the database with a footnote that the data were taken at a nearby location. All data will be made available to the public.

We thank you for your consideration and hope to meet with you and Rangen officials in the field regarding our request in the near future, possibly October 26, 2006, if that is acceptable. Also, please note that Frank Erwin, watermaster for Water District 36A supports the installation of additional monitoring equipment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Vincent for RR". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Richard Raymondi  
Bureau Chief Technical Services

cc: Hal Anderson, Division Administrator, Planning and Technical Services  
Tim Luke, Water Distribution Section Manager