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February 17, 2005

Karl Dreher
Director,
Idaho Department of Water Resources

Dear Mr. Dreher,

As ground water users in Bingham County, District 120, we feel the need to watch the developments closely concerning the water call issued by the Surface Water Coalition (S.W.C.). We've read the recent developments concerning Idaho Power and their Petition to intervene as a party in the S.W.C. call. We are writing you to voice our concerns as involved parties to this matter.

Idaho Power may have direct and substantial interests in the use and administration of water in the Snake River Basin, but Idaho Power is a large corporation with corporate interests and stockholders and lawyers. The original matter before you is a matter between farmers and irrigators of two different irrigation districts with two different methods of irrigating crops. We believe the solutions and agreements to bring these two groups together will be complicated enough as has already been demonstrated in past talks. Bringing in a third party will complicate the original matter.

Idaho Power is not a common party to this irrigation issue. Their concerns are with Hydro Electrical Power, not irrigation of a spud field in July during a drought. To our knowledge Idaho Power has no fields of potatoes, grains, corn, beets or hay. Therefore, we feel that Idaho Power's involvement in this water call issued by the S.W.C. will duly broaden the issues before the IDWR.

Idaho Power may or may not have a right to have their concerns be addressed by the IDWR, but if they are addressed it should certainly be under a separate case. In a drought year the IDWR Director should be allowed, as the rules and laws direct, to oversee the mitigation process between irrigators without legal intimidation by a large corporation's legal body.

Sincerely,
Robert Murdock
Brian Murdock