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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

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June 29, 2016

Mr. Gary Spackman,
Director, Idaho Department of Water Resources
322 E. Front St.
P.O. Box 83720-0098
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098

Dear Director Spackman:

I am writing as a professional geologist in support of the City of Meridian's request for a designation of a West Ada Area of Drilling Concern. Protection of high quality aquifers of the area is of paramount importance to the health and economic activity of residents of Idaho. An important regulatory measure must be taken to prevent the further intermingling of shallow contaminated waters and those intermediate-depth aquifers containing natural or introduced toxic chemicals (e.g., nitrates, arsenic, uranium, organics). It is well established that over much of the area the upper aquifers (<300-400 ft depth) contain higher total dissolved solids and some have chemistry unsuitable for drinking water or for electronic and food processing industries.

The immediate regulatory step is to require construction of new or replacement wells to seal the casing in the upper 200-400 ft with cement or grout. Furthermore the Department can require screen or open-hole completion in specific targeted aquifers – in order to prevent co-mingling of waters. It may also be in the Department's interest to inventory those wells with driven, uncemented casing, so as to encourage their eventual replacement.

Sincerely yours,

Spencer H. Wood