



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN
Director

August 28, 2012

Bruce Spackman
165 North 8th West
Preston, Idaho 83263

Re: Twin Lakes Canal Co. application for permit no. 13-7697

Dear Bruce,

I received your letter dated August 22, 2012. The Twin Lakes Canal Company water right application is currently pending before me in an active contested legal proceeding. Because I am the decision maker in the contested case, it is not appropriate for me to read or comment on your opinion regarding this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Spackman".

Gary Spackman
Director

cc: Parties (w/encl.)
James Cefalo

RECEIVED

AUG 27 2012

DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

August 22, 2012

Dear Gary,

How are you and your family? Mine is doing well. A few months ago I noticed your mom out in front of her house and stopped to visit. She showed me around her home. I was quite impressed with her organization and ability to keep up so large a place. Life seems to continually move on for us. We had six children spread out a bit and our youngest graduated this past spring.

I have worked for Intermountain Farmers Association for 30 plus years, much of it as a location manager and the last 4 as a crop advisor. I work with growers, monitoring crops and making fertilizer and pesticide recommendations. Over the years I have experienced a lot of changes. Fertilizer prices used to be fairly constant. Fuel and other inputs were more stable also. The prices growers received for commodities were fairly constant as well, never enough it seemed. In the last 15 or so years agriculture has become more of a roller coaster. Nitrogen prices used to be tied to natural gas prices. A long cold winter would raise the price of natural gas and cause nitrogen fertilizers to increase somewhat the following year. Right now natural gas is abundant and the price is low but fertilizer is very high. It has increasingly become a global economy with more factors than just the cost of production. Some farm commodity prices have been really high in recent years also. In some cases, they are 2 to 3 times what they were 15 years ago when our parents were finishing their farming days.

I remember in the 1980's (I think) during a dry spell, the water storage level at Bear Lake was drawn way down. Merlin Olsen and a group of recreators campaigned to stop dredging and pumping out of Bear Lake because it drastically affected the lake level. Merlin also advertised regularly for Rocky Mountain Chevrolet dealers. Dad told me once that he thought Merlin was pressured by Chevrolet to back off on his Bear Lake campaign because Utah farmers purchased a lot of Chevrolet trucks and his campaign could have a negative affect on pick-up truck sales.

Farmers in Box Elder County have priority water rights to farmers in Cache Valley for Bear River water. During another dry spell, some Cache Valley irrigators were shut off late in the summer. Jerry Simmonds of Trenton pumped directly out of the river. He refused to shut off his pump and got in serious trouble.

Over the years I have worked a lot with farmers on the Twin Lakes system. In dry years they often run out of water also. Some years they have failed to fill the lakes by spring and they have been forced to begin irrigating with out a full supply. I have been told they can't fill during the cold months of winter because ice chunks scrape into the pipe. I am aware of the Twin Lakes dam proposal for the Oneida Narrows. When it was initially proposed, my company was invited to a hearing and probably asked to speak in favor. I didn't attend but I heard some negative backlash. A large portion of our business is to hobby farmers, sportsmen, recreators and homeowners. Many of these folks are opposed to the dam. I think our upper management decided that no position was the best position.

The Mormon Church has purchased large acreage on the Twin Lakes system but I think they have felt it best to stay out of the fracas. They are likely one of the larger shareholders. A farm manager operates some of the Church's land. Some of it is leased to other growers.

I have recreated a little in the Oneida Narrows of the Bear River. I don't fish much but I have occasionally floated in an inner tube or canoe. I'm not sure what society's responsibility is to recreators. I would think planning for long term food production should be a priority. I read that global warming is increasingly accepted as a scientific fact caused by human activity. And global warming will likely affect rainfall and water distribution worldwide for years to come.

Water is a valuable commodity. When Dad passed away we decided to sell the farm. We were approached by at least one individual that didn't want to buy the land but he wanted the water shares. I can only imagine what your job must be like dealing with these issues on such a large scale. Nevada wants Utah's water. I follow discussions related to the use of Snake River water and how aquifers are affected by flood irrigation vs. pivot irrigation.

I personally feel the proposed Twin Lakes dam would be beneficial to the future of Franklin County. The increased ability to store water would make the farm ground in western Franklin County more productive, and the ability to produce electricity with waterpower would also be beneficial.

The number of people involved in agriculture continues to decline. I don't know how this affects the ability of agriculture to lobby for what they determine to be their needs, but they definitely have fewer voices.

Sorry if I have rambled. I just felt compelled to offer some of my thoughts as an interested party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Bruce Spackman

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 29th day of August, 2012, true and correct copies of the document described below were served by placing a copy of the same with the United States Postal Service, postage prepaid and properly addressed to the following:

Document Served: Letter dated August 28, 2012 to Bruce Spackman

Holden Kidwell Hahn & Crapo
Robert L. Harris
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Peter R. Anderson
910 W Main St., Ste. 342
Boise ID 83702

Idaho Rivers United
PO Box 633
Boise ID 83701

Franklin County Fish & Game Assoc
235 Park Ave
Preston ID 83263

Mabey Wright & James
David Wright
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Salt Lake City UT 84111

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Tyson Nelson
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PO Box 522220
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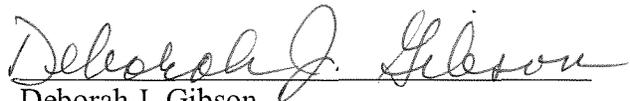
PacifiCorp
Attn: Claudia Conder
1407 W. North Temple #110
Salt Lake City UT 84116

State of Idaho
Dept of Fish & Game
1345 Barton Rd
Pocatello ID 83204

Idaho Dept of Fish & Game
Cindy Robertson
PO Box 25
Boise ID 83707

Oneida Narrows Organization
143 North 100 West
Smithfield UT 84335

Bear Lake Watch Inc
C/O Claudia Cottle
2629 Hwy 89
Fish Haven ID 83287


Deborah J. Gibson
Administrative Assistant to the Director

Bruce Spackman
165 N. 8th St.
Preston, ID 83263

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AUG 27 2012
DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Barry Spackman - Director
Idaho Water Resources
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0998

FOREVER

Justice

