

August 7, 2007

Re: Northern Idaho general stream adjudications

Dear Water Right Holder and Counsel,

The Idaho legislature recently authorized the commencement of the Northern Idaho water rights adjudications, beginning with the Coeur d'Alene-Spokane River Basin. *See* Idaho Code § 42-1406B. Special jurisdiction and venue for the adjudications resides with the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) district court. The Petition for Commencement is anticipated to be filed sometime this fall.

The purpose of this letter is to inform interested parties and counsel of the Court's intent to establish a steering committee. The function of the steering committee will be to identify and make recommendations to the Court on a range of issues including: The identification of any Basin-Wide Issues; the scheduling of the filing of tribal and federal claims; amendments to the existing procedural rules; the consolidation of common issues; as well as any other suggestions the committee determines would facilitate the staging and orderly progression of the adjudications.

A steering committee will provide a process whereby interested parties can freely identify and discuss issues and submit procedural proposals to the Court for their resolution without *ex parte* or extrajudicial contacts with the Court and without instituting formal proceedings. Participation on the steering committee will be open to any water right holder or their counsel wishing to participate on a voluntary basis.

In an effort to introduce parties to the adjudication process, the SRBA Court will be holding its monthly informational meeting and status conference in Coeur d'Alene on **August 23, 2007**, at the U.S. District Courthouse, main floor courtroom, 205 North 4th Street. The monthly informational meeting will begin at **10:00 a.m.** (Pacific Time). In conjunction with the informational meeting the Court will discuss the formation of the steering committee and solicit interested individuals for participation. If you are unable to attend in person telephone participation will also be available by calling 1-918-583-3445 and entering 406128 when prompted.

Interested parties who are unable to attend either in person or by telephone should send a letter to the Clerk of the SRBA Court, notifying of their interest to participate in the steering committee, together with a return address, phone number and e-mail address if available. You will then be notified of future developments. You can also check the Court's website for updates at www.srba.state.id.us.

I have also included with this notice a copy of a news release issued by the Idaho Department of Water Resources which provides a schedule of public informational meetings on the Northern Idaho Adjudications being held between August 20th and August 22nd.

Sincerely,

John M. Melanson
Presiding Judge
Snake River Basin Adjudication