

BEFORE THE DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

<p>In The Matter Of:</p> <p>MERIDIAN IRRIGATION COMPANY</p> <p>RESPONDENT</p>	<p>ORDER FORBIDDING USE OF WATER</p> <p>SEAA No. 1356 DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT NO. 102199 WATER RIGHTS: 61-2178</p>
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I. STATEMENT OF LAW AND JURISDICTION

1. The Division of Water Rights ("Division") issues this Order Forbidding Use of Water ("Order") under UTAH CODE ANN. § 73-5-1 and in accordance with UTAH ADMIN. CODE R. 655-15. This Order is exempt from the Utah Administrative Procedures Act in accord with UTAH CODE ANN. Subsection 63G-4-102(2).
2. The State Engineer, as the director of the Division, is charged with the general administrative responsibility over the waters of the State. UTAH CODE ANN. § 73-2-1.
3. The Division administers the waters of the state under the direction of the State Engineer. UTAH CODE ANN. §§ 73-2-1 and 73-2-1.1.
4. The State Engineer is authorized to enact rules governing water distribution systems, water commissioners, water measurement and reporting that are consistent with UTAH CODE ANN. Chapter 73-5, "Administration and Distribution." UTAH CODE ANN. § 73-2-1(5)(a) and 73-2-1(5)(b).
5. "Assessment" means monies paid by water users to the State Engineer specifically to defray the costs of a Distribution System as described in UTAH CODE ANN. Subsection 73-5-1(3). UTAH ADMIN. CODE R. 655-15-4 (a).
6. "Distribution Account" means the accounting unit established by the Division of Water Rights ("Division") for calculation of assessments and for tracking the assessments made to and payments collected from each water user. UTAH ADMIN. CODE R. 655-15-4 (d).

7. "Distribution Order" means an Order of the State Engineer interpreting the water rights included within a Distribution System, confirming priorities of water rights, giving instruction or direction regarding the regulation, distribution, and/or measurement of water based on those water rights, and may order the installation or repair of measuring devices, head gates, and control structures as authorized by UTAH CODE ANN. Chapter 73-5. Distribution Orders are enforceable under the provisions of UTAH CODE ANN. §§ 73-2-25 and 73-2-26. UTAH ADMIN. CODE R. 655-15-4 (e).
8. "Enforcement Tag" means an orange tag attached by a Water Commissioner to or near a control structure or water measuring device in situations where the water user is ordered to comply with the Water Commissioner's regulation and distribution of water. An enforcement tag constitutes a distribution order and is enforceable in the same manner. UTAH ADMIN. CODE R. 655-15-4 (j).
9. "Respondent" means any person to whom the Division issues a Notice or Order pursuant to authority granted under UTAH CODE ANN. Chapter 73-5.
10. "Violation," as used in this Order, means any action taken by the Respondent, the Respondent's agent, or any person acting under the direction or authority of the Respondent, intended to circumvent or avoid the restrictions on water use ordered herein. Such action may include but is not limited to removal or alteration of an Enforcement Tag placed by a duly appointed official of the Division.
11. UTAH CODE ANN. § 73-5-1 states in part: *If a water user fails to pay the assessment as provided by Subsection (3)(a), the state engineer may ... forbid the use of water by the delinquent water user or the delinquent water user's successors or assignees, while the default continues.*
12. This Order constitutes a Distribution Order in accord with the provisions of UTAH ADMIN. CODE R655-15-4.
13. UTAH CODE ANN. § 73-2-25 states in part: *The state engineer may commence an enforcement action under this section if the state engineer finds that a person violates a written distribution order from the state engineer.*

II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. On October 14, 2009 a Delinquent Assessment Collection Notice ("Notice") was mailed to the Respondent at the address of record.

2. The Notice recited certain facts pertaining to Distribution Account 102199, which facts are herewith incorporated into this Order.
3. The Notice advised the Respondent to pay the outstanding unpaid balance of Distribution Account 102199 within 30 days of the date of the Notice.
4. The Notice informed the Respondent that if payment of the outstanding balance was not made within the time allowed, the Division would issue an Order Forbidding the Use of Water until payment is made.
5. As of the date of this Order, the Respondent has not paid the balance due on Distribution Account 102199 as advised in the Delinquent Assessment Collection Notice.
6. As of the date of this Order, the unpaid balance due on the captioned Distribution Account is **\$2,470.95**, including prior assessments and delinquent penalties, which amount is immediately due and payable.

III. ORDER

On the grounds and for the reasons summarized herein, and pursuant to the authority of UTAH CODE ANN. §73-5-1 and other authorities cited above, the Respondent is hereby ordered to comply with the following requirements:

1. The Respondent is hereby **ORDERED TO CEASE THE USE OF WATER** associated with the Distribution Account listed above and as described in the water rights listed above. UTAH CODE ANN. Subsection 73-5-1(3)(c)(ii).
2. This ORDER shall remain in effect as long as the delinquency on Distribution Account 102199 remains unpaid.
3. Payment of the unpaid balance shall be made in the form of a check payable to "Utah State Engineer" delivered to the address below:

Utah State Engineer
1594 West North Temple
PO Box 146300
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6300

4. The enclosed assessment notice must be submitted with the payment and the Distribution Account number 102199 must be written on the check.

5. Before attempting to take any water, the Respondent shall advise the Water Commissioner, Ray Owens, of having complied with this Order. Mr. Owens can be reached at (435) 979-7726. The Water Commissioner shall confirm compliance with this Order before any water is distributed under Distribution Account 102199.

IV. ADDITIONAL AGENCY ACTION

1. If there is a violation of this Order, as defined herein, the Division may commence an enforcement action in accordance with UTAH CODE ANN. § 73-2-25.
2. If determined to be in violation of this Order, the Respondent will be subject to administrative penalties in accordance with UTAH CODE ANN. § 73-2-26, including fines not to exceed \$5,000 per day for knowing violations or \$1,000 per day for unknowing violations, and for replacement of up to 200% of water taken in violation of the Order. In addition, the Respondent may be liable for reimbursement of all expenses incurred by the Division in investigating and stopping the violation.

V. RESPONDENT PARTICIPATION

1. To participate in this proceeding, the Respondent must comply with each and all of the requirements listed in Section III. ORDER, herein, *or*:
2. Submit *written* information and evidence documenting that the Respondent named is not the party owning the captioned water right and responsible for payment of the amount due on the referenced Distribution Account.
 - a. The *written* information must provide facts supporting the Respondent's allegations or defenses and must identify the party to whom water right ownership and Distribution Account responsibility was transferred; and
 - b. Must be received by the Division **within fourteen (14) days of the date of this Order.**

VI. RESPONDENT FILINGS

All Respondent's filings concerning this action, whether to comply with the Order or to provide information and evidence, shall be directed to the Division. Such filings shall reference SEAA 1356 noted herein and may be submitted in either of two ways:

1. Filings submitted *only* by mail must be **received** in the office of the State Engineer by the designated due date. All filings submitted by mail should be directed to:

Division of Water Rights
Attn: Susan Odekirk
1594 West North Temple St, Suite 220
PO Box 146300
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6300

2. Filings submitted by telephone facsimile transmission (fax) must be addressed as for mailing and must be **received** in the office of the State Engineer by the designated due date by transmission to: **(801) 538-7467**.

The receiving fax machine will imprint a time/date stamp on the received document, but no confirmation of receipt will be provided to the sender. **The signed original documents must also be submitted to the Division by regular mail using the address information above. The signed original documents must be *postmarked* no later than the designated due date.**

VII. FURTHER INFORMATION

Questions concerning this ORDER should be referred to:

Susan Odekirk
(801) 538-7431
susanodekirk@utah.gov
PO BOX 146300
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6300

Dated this 16th day of December, 2009

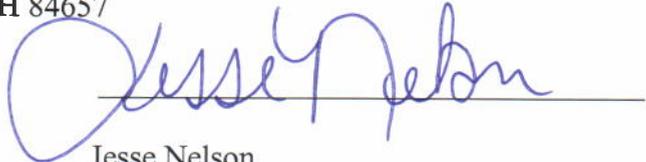


Susan Odekirk
Distribution Engineer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, certify that on this 16th day of December 2009, I mailed a copy of the foregoing Order by U.S. Priority Mail Service, Delivery Confirmation requested, to the following:

MERIDIAN IRRIGATION CO.
PO BOX 570068
SIGURD, UTAH 84657



Jesse Nelson
Division of Water Rights
Field Services Secretary

CC:

Kirk Forbush, Regional Engineer

Kerry Carpenter, Division or Water Rights Enforcement

Ivan Cowley, Chairman Sevier Distribution System

Ray Owens, River Commissioner



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor
GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Water Rights

MICHAEL R. STYLER KENT L. JONES
Executive Director *State Engineer/Division Director*

2009 WATER DISTRIBUTION ASSESSMENT NOTICE

MERIDIAN IRRIGATION COMPANY
ANDERSON, JEFFREY
PO BOX 570068
SIGURD, UT 84657

SEVIER RIVER Distribution System Account No: 102199

Transaction Date	Description	Debits	Credits
04/10/2008	Previous Balance		0.00
05/07/2008	Assessment	1003.66	
10/06/2008	Adjustment - Per assessment update 4/30/		4.52
03/19/2009	Delinquent Penalty	99.91	
08/04/2009	Assessment	1147.27	
	Delinquent Penalty	224.63	
	Total Amount Due	2470.95	

Payment is due by May 1st. A 10% delinquent penalty will be added AFTER June 1st.

Retain this section for your records. Direct questions to (801) 538-7415.

Water Assessment Payment Coupon

SEVIER RIVER Distribution System Account No: 102199

Year 2009 Payment \$2470.95

Make payable to STATE ENGINEER and note ACCOUNT NO on your check.
Return this portion with your payment. Write name or address changes below.





Online Services Agency List Business

 Search

Utah Division of Water Rights



Edit Account - SEVIER RIVER - 102199

Billing Entity : MERIDIAN IRRIGATION COMPANY

Billing Contact : ANDERSON, JEFFREY

Address 1 : PO BOX 570068

Phone 1 : () -

Address 2 :

Phone 2 :

City : SIGURD

Reference : 52.59

State : Utah

Account Status

Zip : 84657

Active Special Inactive

Account Type : Other

Primary Units : 17,400.00
 Secondary Units : 0.00
 Water Use Limit : 0

Direct Assessment : 0.00
 Special Assessment : 0.00
 Balance Owed : \$2,470.95

OK

Account Notes

#	Date	User Name	Note
1	2/25/2003	HP3000	Owens advised 2/14/90 this acct. should be Class I water.

Water Right Numbers

61-2178

Payment History

#	Date	Assessment	Special Assessment	Adjustments or Late Fees	Payment	Balance	Status
1	3/1/1991	\$301.40				\$301.40	
2	5/6/1991				\$301.40	\$0.00	
3	3/1/1992	\$287.13			\$287.13	\$0.00	
4	6/3/1992					\$287.13	
5	3/1/1993	\$352.13				\$352.13	
6	6/1/1993					\$352.13	
7	8/3/1993			\$35.21		\$387.34	
8	3/1/1994	\$345.99			\$387.34	\$0.00	
9	6/7/1994					\$345.99	
10	3/1/1995	\$435.04			\$345.99	\$0.00	
11	6/1/1995					\$435.04	
12	8/23/1995			\$43.50		\$478.54	
13	3/1/1996	\$427.36			\$478.54	\$0.00	
14	6/1/1996					\$427.36	
15	8/28/1996			\$42.74		\$470.10	
16	3/1/1997	\$461.09			\$470.10	\$0.00	
17	6/1/1997					\$461.09	
18	3/1/1998	\$471.36			\$46.11	\$507.20	
19	6/1/1998					\$978.56	
20	8/17/1998			\$97.86		\$1,076.42	
21	3/1/1999	\$438.34			\$1,076.42	\$0.00	
22	6/1/1999					\$438.34	
23	8/25/1999			\$43.83		\$482.17	
24	3/1/2000	\$500.09			\$482.17	\$0.00	
25	6/6/2000					\$500.09	
26	3/1/2001	\$582.76			\$500.09	\$0.00	
27	6/1/2001					\$582.76	
28	3/1/2002	\$560.75		\$58.28		\$641.04	
29	6/12/2002					\$1,201.79	
30	5/14/2003 10:38:45 AM	\$805.62			\$1,201.79	\$0.00	
31	6/5/2003 11:39:43 AM					\$805.62	
32	4/14/2004 9:52:16 AM	\$1,021.76			\$805.62	\$0.00	
33	6/10/2004 3:43:24 PM					\$1,021.76	
34	4/6/2005 9:00:34 AM	\$1,015.18			\$1,021.76	\$0.00	
35	6/9/2005 12:59:23 PM					\$1,015.18	
36	4/11/2006 3:34:30 PM	\$801.57			\$1,015.18	\$0.00	
						\$801.57	

37	6/7/2006 6:12:42 PM		\$801.57	\$0.00
38	3/22/2007 2:29:25 PM	\$773.51		\$773.51
39	6/5/2007 5:47:19 PM		\$773.51	\$0.00
40	4/10/2008 2:36:41 PM	\$1,003.66		\$1,003.66
41	5/7/2008 10:33:47 AM		(\$4.52)	\$999.14
42	10/6/2008 6:08:55 PM		\$99.91	\$1,099.05
43	3/19/2009 12:51:02 PM	\$1,147.27		\$2,246.32
44	8/4/2009 9:42:20 AM		\$224.63	\$2,470.95

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