

# STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS

In Re CSRBA	) Subcase No. 91-7755
	) (353 consolidated subcases (see attached list))
Case No. 49576	)
	ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS FOR
	) PERMISSIVE APPEAL
	)
	)

## I.

### **BACKGROUND**

- 1. On May 3, 2017, the Court entered an Order on Motions for Summary Judgment, a Final Order Disallowing Water Right Claims, and a Final Order Disallowing Purposes of Use in the above-captioned matter. The Final Order Disallowing Water Rights Claims and the Final Order Disallowing Purposes of Use were Rule 54(b) certified as final judgments. The Order on Motions for Summary Judgment was not Rule 54(b) certified, and is an interlocutory order.
- 2. On May 16, 2017, the State of Idaho filed a *Motion to Reconsider*, and on May 17, 2017, the United States and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe ("Tribe") filed a *Motion to Set Aside* and *Modify Partial Decree or Final Order Disallowing Water Right Claim*.
- 3. On July 26, 2017, the Court entered an *Order Granting Motion to Reconsider* and an *Order on Motion to Set Aside and Remand*. Those orders were not Rule 54(b) certified. On that same date the Court entered an *Amended Final Order Disallowing Water Right Claims*, which was Rule 54(b) certified as a final judgment.
- 4. The State, United States, Tribe, Hecla Limited, and North Idaho Water Rights Group subsequently filed *Motions* seeking an order granting an appeal by permission under Idaho Appellate Rule 12(b). The movants seek permission to appeal from the non-certified *Orders* issued by this Court in conjunction with the Rule 54(b) certified *Orders* on the grounds they are intertwined and related to one another. The State, Tribe, and North Idaho Water Rights Group expressly waive oral argument on their *Motions*. The United States and Hecla do not

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The term "North Idaho Water Rights Group" refers collectively to the Objectors identified on Exhibit A to the Court's *Order on Motions for Summary Judgment*.

request oral argument. The Court thus finds that oral argument on the *Motions* to be unnecessary.

- 5. The following Objectors join in the State's *Motion*: Potlatch Forest Holdings, Inc.; Potlatch Land & Lumber, LLC; Potlatch TRS Idaho, LLC; Benewah County; City of St. Maries; City of Harrison; Buell Bros., Inc.; Jack Buell; Eleanor Buell; David Corkill; Mary Corkill; and Whiteman Lumber Co., Inc. Benewah County also joins in the *Motion* filed by the North Idaho Water Rights Group.
- 6. The State of Idaho filed notice that it does not oppose the *Motions* filed by the United States or the Tribe for permissive appeal. The Tribe filed notice that it does not oppose the *Motions* filed by the State, Hecla Limited, or the North Idaho Water Rights Group for permissive appeal. No opposition to any of the *Motions* for permissive appeal has been filed by any party.

#### II.

#### **ANALYSIS**

Idaho Appellate Rule 12(b) authorizes a party to file a motion with this Court seeking permission to appeal from an interlocutory order or judgment "which involves a controlling question of law as to which there is substantial grounds for difference of opinion and in which an immediate appeal from the order or decree may materially advance the orderly resolution of the litigation." The above-captioned proceeding involves 353 water right claims filed by the United States as trustee on behalf of the Tribe. The claims seek federal reserved water rights associated with the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation. In 2015, the Court consolidated the claims into the above-captioned subcase. It also bifurcated the litigation in this matter between issues of entitlement and quantification, with the issue of entitlement to be addressed first. The *Orders* of the Court identified above collectively address the issue of entitlement.

The Court agrees with the movants that all issues related to entitlement should be allowed to proceed collectively on appeal at this time. Allowing the issues to be appealed collectively will materially advance the orderly resolution of the litigation. It makes little sense for only those *Orders* the Court has Rule 54(b) certified to be appealed at this time. The Court has 54(b) certified only those *Orders* that finally disallow all, or a portion of, claims filed by the United States. However, the analysis, rationale, and reasoning in the Rule 54(b) certified *Orders* and the

non-certified *Orders* are intertwined and inextricably related to one another. The non-certified *Orders* provide the legal and factual grounds on which the certified *Orders* are founded. It is only logical that the certified and non-certified *Orders* be considered collectively on appeal to avoid piecemeal litigation and associated delays. Furthermore, the Court cannot proceed with the quantification phase of the claims until issues of entitlement are fully resolved.

The Court also agrees that the *Orders* involve controlling questions of law as to which there are substantial grounds for difference of opinion. These questions of law include the ascertainment of the primary and secondary purposes of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation. These are important controlling legal questions where the parties have demonstrated that there are substantial grounds for differences of opinion. The Court therefore finds that the criteria for permission to appeal from the Court's non-certified *Orders* in conjunction with its certified *Orders* have been satisfied.

#### III.

#### **ORDER**

THEREFORE, BASED ON THE FOREGOING, THE FOLLOWING ARE HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1. The State's Motion for Permission to Appeal from Order on Motions for Summary Judgment, as Amended by Order Granting Motion to Reconsider and Order on Motion to Set Aside and Modify is hereby granted.
  - 2. The Tribe's *Motion for Leave to File Interlocutory Appeal* is hereby granted.
  - 3. The United States' Motion for Appeal by Permission is hereby granted.
- 4. The North Idaho Water Rights Group's *Motion for Leave to File Interlocutory Appeal* is hereby granted.
- 5. Hecla Limited's *Motion for Leave to File Interlocutory Appeal* is hereby granted.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: August 16,2017

Presiding Judge

ERIC J. WALDMAN

Coeur d'Alene-Spokane River Basin Adjudication

# Subcase Nos:

91-07755	92-10921	93-07510	93-07560	93-07610	94-09251
91-07756	92-10922	93-07511	93-07561	93-07611	94-09252
91-07757	93-07462	93-07512	93-07562	93-07612	94-09253
91-07758	93-07463	93-07513	93-07563	93-07613	94-09254
91-07759	93-07464	93-07514	93-07564	93-07614	94-09255
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91-07767	93-07472	93-07522	93-07572	93-07622	94-09263
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(Subcase list: CSRBATRIBE) 8/16/17

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Subcase Nos:
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(Subcase list: CSRBATRIBE) 8/16/17

# CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that a true and correct copy of the ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS FOR PERMISSIVE APPEAL was mailed on August 16, 2017, with sufficient first-class postage to the following:

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ORDER

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