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IDWR / NORTH

Kenneth Knoblock
Water Right Supervisor
Idaho State Department of Water Resources
Northern Region
7600 N. Mineral Drive - Suite 100
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

Re: 95-16408

Dear Mr. Knoblock,

Please allow me to apologize for appearing to be evasive concerning your repeated inquiries into the water use associated with my property located at 27381 South Highway 97, Harrison, ID. The simple fact is that I do not have the precise information that you are obviously seeking.

The history of the property is vague and ambiguous even to the Kootenai County officials. The property was previously owned by an elderly lady identified only as "Pearl". She apparently dates back to the timber and mining days and lived in a small house adjacent to the lake. When she passed away, she was believed to be in her nineties and without any surviving family. The County reportedly searched for several years attempting to locate a proper heir to the property. It is my understanding that some very distant relative was located out of State, perhaps in Iowa. My only contact was with a realtor in Washington who was retained by an Attorney representing the heir(s) in their attempt to simply sell the property. I am currently in California and will not be able to research my records until I return to Idaho in May. My records should reflect more exact dates and identities.

We acquired the property through a proper escrow prior to 2005. At the time of the purchase, the small lakeside house in which "Pearl" lived was served by a direct and unfiltered lake water pump system. The house also had a non-conforming septic field in close proximity to the lake. I personally viewed the small house and the substandard conditions and it was clear to me that the site was poorly maintained and very, very old. Toilets and sinks and other building components were post-WWII era, possibly the 1950's. There were three composition roofs, again suggesting a very old construction. At considerable expense, and with full permitting, I de-constructed the old house, carefully segregated and disposed of the hazardous or harmful materials, and then built a completely new two-story single-family residence and adjoining boathouse. A pre-existing concrete launch ramp and seawall were preserved and rehabilitated; again also indicating the age of the developed site since such features have not been permitted for decades. I believe that my final occupancy permit was issued in 2005.

To the best of my knowledge, the property has exercised water rights at least since the 1960's. I hope this background information will satisfy your needs. I recall that the Kootenai County records were extraordinarily brief and non-specific. But I did succeed in gaining proper title to the land and access to the water.

Joe Callanan