

January 18, 2012

Paul Keetch
1052 Dingle Road
Montpelier, ID 83254

RE: Notice of Change in Water Right Ownership for Rights 11-913, 11-914, 11-915

Dear Mr. Keetch:

In April 2010, you filed a Notice of Change in Water Right Ownership ("ownership change") for water rights 11-913, 11-914, and 11-915 from the Bear River. In the past, the department has held most ownership changes in the Bear River basin. Because the water right descriptions in the old decrees are so vague, it is often difficult to know the correct location of the water rights. Just recently, however, we have started to review all of the pending ownership changes in the Bear River basin to determine which ones can be completed. Those that cannot be completed are returned to the filing party with a refund of the filing fee. This letter is meant to inform you that, given the ownership evidence available at this time, your ownership change cannot be completed and that your filing fee will be refunded.

Water rights 11-913, 11-914, and 11-915 were described in the Preston Montpelier v. Dingle Decree (1924). The Dingle Decree stated that the place of use for these three water rights was 160 acres in the NE1/4 of Section 3, T14S, R44E. Bear Lake County taxlot records show the NE1/4 of Section 3 is owned by U4 Ranch LLC. You provided two deeds with your ownership change (Elisha Keetch > Paul Keetch and Lindsay > Paul Keetch). Neither of these deeds included any land in Section 3. Further, we do not have any evidence showing that water rights 11-913, 11-914, and 11-915 were ever transferred from the original, decreed place of use.

In order to complete an ownership change for the three rights, you need to provide a chain of deeds tracing ownership of the NE1/4 of Section 3 from Oran Quayle to you. Or, if you believe the water rights were transferred to a different place of use, you need to provide documentary evidence showing how and when the water rights were moved. At this point, we have decided to return your ownership change and refund your filing fee (\$75.00). A refund check from the state of Idaho should arrive in two weeks. You can re-file your ownership change in the future if you are able to collect the evidence of ownership described above. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

James Cefalo
Water Resources Program Manager