

RECEIVED

FEB - 3 1993

(case 55-6237)

Dear Mr. Jim Riley
State Engineer,

WATER RIGHTS
SALT LAKE

I have been having trouble with my well again. I'm not to surprised because several of my neighbors have been experiencing the same problem. I can't drop my pump any lower and I can't drill deeper in the same hole because of the lost pump in the bottom. I was wondering how come the people in this area are having this much trouble and was trying to blame it on the drought. I then realized, by talking with my neighbors, that the reason is because of the pipe-lines that take all of what used to be Lake Creek. I was furious to find out that it was done without approval from your office. I am even more furious to find out that your office knows and probably knew about it, and has done and is doing nothing about the problem! I have had to go without water before and it is starting to look like I may again. Every time I bring up our water problems with anyone that owns a water rite, not just here but all around the state, the response I hear is always the same:

"Those guys up in Salt Lake don't care about your wells, and they damn sure ain't going to do anything. Hell, I don't think they can. Think about it, if it wasn't your well would you cause a stink? Its a lot easier for those guys to sit back until you give up than take a chance on getting a utility company mad at em. Your on your own, the State won't get involved."

That's as close as I can remember the last response I heard. Your office gave me a piece of paper saying that I have the rite to some water. You know as well as I do that that water has to come from the mountain and hills above my house. Yet you close your eyes and let anybody do whatever they want with the water up there. I may be wrong, but some of the water in those pipes used to come to our wells. I know that a lot of it used to be lost to leakage in the creek, that leakage is gone and so are the wells. It would be nice if you could earmark the snowflakes and direct them to specific places and send the water to specific locations because some of them belong to the well users. Your office has sit back and let Heber Light & Power steal the water from everybody in this area depending on wells. I know that the water is being put to good use, but can't half the water be put back in the creek? If no permission is required to convert streams to pipelines, fisheries to plastic water ways, wildlife water holes to gravel pits, and wells to dry holes, then please tell me what it is that your job is. Look in your records, unless everybody is re-drilling without you knowledge, I can't believe that you can't see a problem. If you wont help who will? The county says its all up to you guys. I can't help but to believe that we don't have any rites. I wont give up, I can't afford to keep drilling and re-drilling. Heber Light & Power is planning on installing water for new development. Don't you think that before more water is allocated that those of us already here should get back what was taken? I keep hearing that all this water can be saved by piping but for every gallon not seeping in the ground its a gallon not available to the local wells. Your an engineer, you have the records. We are just a bunch of people looking to you to do the rite thing and, with this letter, asking for desperately needed help. Again, I am really surprised that the County and the State let a small city power company dry up what used to be a fishery as well as one of the only sources of water for wildlife, not to mention the source of water for many of the local wells.

Ron Titcomb
4570 E Lake Creek Rd.
Heber City, Utah 84032
(801) 654-2617