United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Montana Area Office
P.O. Box 30137
Billings, MT 59107-0137

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MT-455
2.2.4.21

VIA USPS

Subject: Call on Junior Water Right Holders in Milk River Basin 40J to Cease Diversions

Dear Milk River Watershed Water Right User(s):

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation records indicate that you own a water right on the Milk River. This water right entitles you to natural flow of the Milk River when it is legally available under your priority date.

The priority date for the Fort Belknap Indian Irrigation Project (FBIIP) natural flow water right is October 17, 1855. This water right is for 125 cubic feet per second (cfs). As of the date of this notification, natural flow of the Milk River is less than 125 cfs. Therefore, FBIIP is taking all of the natural flow. The remaining water in the river is Fresno stored water for use by Reclamation irrigation districts, municipalities, and others through storage contracts with Reclamation.

Montana water law provides the owner of senior (older) water rights the authority to require junior (newer) water rights to cease the diversion and use of water until the senior's demands have been met. Reclamation is therefore putting a call on your water right and is requesting that you stop using your water right immediately.

Reclamation has always strived to be a good neighbor and understands the imposition this will put on you and your operation. Thank you for your cooperation. Your adherence to the State of Montana water law and assistance in this regard is appreciated.

If you have questions related to Reclamation's call, please contact Clayton Jordan at (406) 247-7334 or by email at cjordan@usbr.gov. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Sincerely,

Ryan Newman
Area Manager

cc: Montana Department of Natural Resources
        Bureau Chief – Water Management Bureau
        PO Box 201601
        Helena, MT 59620-1601