

MONTANA WATER COURT, CLARK FORK DIVISION
JOCKO RIVER HYDROLOGIC SUB-BASIN (BASIN 76L) AND
FLATHEAD RIVER TO AND INCLUDING FLATHEAD LAKE (BASIN 76LJ)

ORDER SETTING STATUS CONFERENCE AND HEARING

The CSKT Compact was recently approved by the Montana Legislature. During the time the Compact was being negotiated, the Water Court issued a number of Orders regarding claims examination and other matters in Basins 76L and 76LJ.

The Orders issued in these Basins limited examination of certain water rights, and authorized the CSKT and the United States to limit examination of certain claims. The Orders also stated that the DNRC was not to forward a summary report of claims examination to the Water Court without consent of the Tribes and the United States, or without further Order of the Water Court after notice to the parties and an opportunity for a hearing.

Now that the Compact has been approved by the Montana Legislature, it is time to complete claims examination, issue preliminary decrees, and commence adjudication of water rights in Basins 76L and 76LJ .

Accordingly, the Tribes, the State of Montana, and the United States are hereby notified of the following:

1. The Water Court will direct the DNRC to complete claims examination in these Basins;
2. Upon completion of claims examination, the Water Court will order the DNRC to issue a summary report for each Basin;
3. The Water Court will issue a preliminary decree for each Basin; and

4. All prior Orders of the Court pertaining to claims examination, summary reports, or decree issuance that conflict with the foregoing objectives will be vacated.

In conformance with this Court's prior Orders, the parties shall be provided an opportunity for a hearing on these issues. If the parties wish to have a hearing, they must notify the Court of their intentions no later than **June 15, 2015**.

If a hearing is requested, it shall occur telephonically on **July 1, 2015 at 10:00 AM**. Instructions for accessing the telephonic conference are as follows:

1. At the designated conference time dial the toll free telephone number:
1-877-526-1243
2. At the prompt, enter the participant pin code followed by the pound (#) key:
7685196#.
3. At the prompt state your name followed by the pound (#) key.

If you have any questions or if you experience problems placing this call you may contact the Water Court at 1-800-624-3270 (in state) or (406) 586-4364.

If the parties do not wish to have a hearing, then a status conference will be held on **July 1, 2015 at 10:00 AM** to discuss plans for adjudication of water rights in Basins 76L and 76LJ. During that status conference, the parties will be afforded an opportunity to comment on these plans.

DATED this *1st* day of *June*, 2015.


Russ McElyea
Chief Water Judge

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