

**From :** Berns, Ria (ECY) <RBER461@ECY.WA.GOV>  
**To :** [tim@water-consultant.com](mailto:tim@water-consultant.com)  
**Subject :** RE: Robert Greiff, Sr Change Applications - Help Requested  
**Cc :** Short, Jaime (ECY) <JSHO461@ECY.WA.GOV>  
**Received On :** 9/23/2024 3:42 PM  
**Attachments :** [image003.jpg](#)

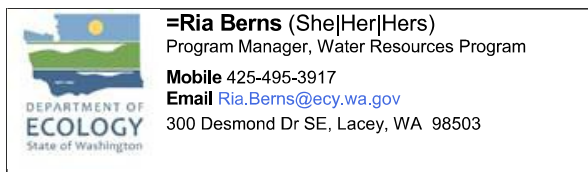
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Good Afternoon, Tim.

As I am certain you can appreciate, water right change applications require complete and thorough documentation and technical analysis to support final decision-making. Ecology stands ready to work with Mr. Greiff and any consultant that he chooses to work with, to provide technical assistance on how change applications can be supported and crafted to meet the landowner???s current and long-term water needs, within the bounds of the water code.

This summer???s ongoing irrigation, on both the north and south fields, in excess of allowable withdrawal/diversion limits and in direct conflict with previous written statements, make this analysis more challenging. That said, our regional staff are available and welcome the opportunity to meet with this landowner. And, we welcome resubmission of a change application to advance this conversation.

Ria



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**From:** Tim Reiersen  
**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2024 6:25 AM  
**To:** Berns, Ria (ECY)  
**Cc:** Short, Jaime (ECY)  
**Subject:** Robert Greiff, Sr Change Applications - Help Requested

External Email

Good Morning Ria:

I write this only in a personal capacity, not as a consultant to Mr. Greiff.

Please see attached letter from me today.

Also see attached email I sent to Ecology Spokane on May 9, 2024. More succinct than today's letter but apparently to no effect. So I elevate this to your desk.

Approval of Mr. Greiff's applications would remedy a regulatory issue. Ecology refuses to approve them. This is creating more problems instead of solving one. Why?

The technical bases for approval are extensive and in the files, and there are precedents I am personally aware of in Grant County and in Klickitat County. Again, why no approvals?

This is the worst management of a manageable water rights issue I have seen in 35 years working in this field. The question has occurred to me, am I the intended target here, and Mr. Greiff just the collateral damage? Anyone who takes the time to read the entire record might ask the same.

Sincerely,  
Tim Reiersen

Tim Reiersen [tim@water-consultant.com](mailto:tim@water-consultant.com)  
he/him RYE er sun

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6604 Appleview Rd    ph (509) 965-7175  
Yakima WA 98908    fax (509) 965-6995

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**Subject:** Re: Follow up letter to Robert H. Greiff after site visit April 24, 2024  
**From:** "Tim Reiersen" <tim@water-consultant.com>  
**Date:** 5/9/2024, 3:20 PM  
**To:** "Fricks, Alexandria (ECY)" <ALFR461@ECY.WA.GOV>  
**CC:** "Drury, Gene E. (ECY)" <GDRU461@ECY.WA.GOV>, "Short, Jaime (ECY)" <JSHO461@ECY.WA.GOV>

I write this as a note from me personally. Not in any professional or consulting capacity. Consider it a comment from the public, to the file.

Please. Approve the pending change applications instead of going this route.

Be human. Be humane.

Thank you,  
Tim Reiersen  
he/him RYE er sun

On 5/9/2024 2:39 PM, Fricks, Alexandria (ECY) wrote:

Hi Tim,

I have attached a copy of a letter to Robert H. Greiff following up on a conversation he had with Gene Drury on April 24, 2024.

If you have any questions please contact Gene at [gdru461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:gdru461@ecy.wa.gov).

Best,  
Alexandria Fricks (she/her)  
Administrative Assistant | Water Resources  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
(509) 601-7185 | [alexandria.fricks@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:alexandria.fricks@ecy.wa.gov)

# Tim Reierson

6604 Appleview Road, Yakima WA 98908 (509) 965-7175 tim@water-consultant.com

September 23, 2024

**Sent by Email**

Ria Berns, Program Manager  
Water Resources Program  
Department of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

**Subject:** Robert Greiff; Change Applications on 4057, 4589-A, G3-01333C

I'm writing in my personal capacity, not as consultant for Bob Greiff, Sr.

In August 2019 Ecology Spokane office contacted Bob Greiff about irrigated ground south of Ridgeway Road. Mr. Greiff then contacted me and I advised him to conform his use to the water rights, document his use for two years with power records and wheel line run times, then file water spreading applications, which he did. **The applications were approved by the Spokane County Water Conservancy Board in August 2022.** Then the Ecology Spokane office became involved. Now they've rejected the applications. I ask for your help.

**2022-11-09.** Ecology met with board representative David Freeman during its review period on approvals.

**2022-11-15.** Spokane board **withdrew its approval decisions**, stating in its decision **"The Board intends to revise and resubmit** for Ecology review..."

**2023-02-06.** On this date, after **extensive** communications involving Ecology and work product prep in response to all issues raised, I submitted additional technical review and revisions for a proposed final set of revised approval decisions "with hopes for decisions at the next board meeting."

**2023-02-13.** Board holds meeting and **votes to refuse to process the Greiff applications.**

**2023-02-22.** I email the board asking whether the board is ready to decide the decisions at its next regularly schedule meeting, **4th Monday Feb 27.** I am informed for the first time of the board's February 13 decision.

**2023-04-11.** I mailed letter to Jaime Short requesting **Ecology** to decide the changes.

**2023.** Instead of deciding the change applications, Ecology took enforcement action. I attempted to mediate the situation with Mr. Greiff, trying to find affordable flow metering solutions. The meter couldn't go at the surface pump, due to pipe configuration, the physical setting in muck, the AC piping materials, depth of pipe bury, lack of access to power except at the pump, all the practical realities. I did what I could.

**2024-09-06.** Instead of deciding and approving them, Ecology rejects the Greiff applications.

Please ask the Spokane office to re-instate, then approve the change applications this winter. Rejecting means re-publication costs, \$1000. Please allow, as alternative to flow metering, annual crop reports for crop water requirements-based estimates (such as AgWeatherNet). Mr. Greiff's rotational farming and the limitations of the system will naturally comply with water right limits. This will remove the financial strain, satisfy regulatory concerns, free up your staff for other priorities, and allow a historic farm to continue to exist. Please intervene.

Sincerely,  
  
Tim Reierson

copy to: Jaime Short