

STATE OF NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

**ORDER OF DISMISSAL OF APPLICATION A-18876
FOR A PERMIT TO APPROPRIATE WATER**

WATER DIVISION 2-C

BACKGROUND

1. On February 17, 2012, James R. O’Kief, William G. O’Kief and Paul Joseph O’Kief filed in the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (Department) application A-18876 for a permit to appropriate water from Lost Creek for the purpose of irrigation of 140 acres of land located in the N½ of Section 22, Township 35 North, Range 23 West of the 6th P.M. in Keya Paha County.
2. The status of application **A-18876** is **pending**.
3. Application A-18876, if approved, would be required to meet certain conditions laid out by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to ensure that the stream is never dewatered due to irrigation pumping to avoid negative impacts on fish species.
4. Land proposed for irrigation under A-18876 is now owned by O’Kief Land and Cattle Co., LLC.
5. Subsequently, John O’Kief indicated that O’Kief Land and Cattle Co., LLC, wished to move forward with this application. However, requests by the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (Department) for confirmation of the conditions laid out by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission went unanswered.
6. On June 12, 2025, the Department sent correspondence requesting the applicant submit, in writing, confirmation of agreement with the conditions laid out by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. If no response was received by the September 10, 2025, deadline the Department would move forward with dismissal of application A-18876.
7. The correspondence was delivered by certified mail to John O’Kief, O’Kief Land and Cattle Co., LLC, Wood Lake, Nebraska 69221.
8. No response was received. Therefore, application A-18876 should be **dismissed**.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED application A-18876 is **DISMISSED**.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT



November 6, 2025

Matthew T. Manning, PE, JD
Chief Water Officer

A copy of this Order was posted on the Department's website. A copy of this Order was provided to the Department's field office in Ord, Nebraska. A copy of this Order was mailed to the following:

John J. O'Kief
O'Kief Land and Cattle Co., LLC
89049 Fairfield Road
Wood Lake Nebraska 69221