

District  
Irrigation

NAVAJO SERVICE  
Tuba City, Arizona  
January 1, 1940

E. R. Fryer, Supt.  
Navajo Service  
Window Rock, Arizona

Attention: Firman Brown

Dear Mr. Fryer:

Some time ago I talked with you and Mr. Woods relative to Navajo-Hopi-School Farm ditch and water rights on the lower Moencopi school farm. As I recall you told me later at Window Rock that the dam and ditch in question was built with government funds on the basis of individual Indian needs and, therefore, the school had no priority rights as to use of water.

Since then the question has been raised at our local council meeting as to the water rights of certain Navajos using water from the so-called Hopi reservoir at Pasture Canyon. These Navajos were refused use of water by the Hopis a number of years ago and abandoned their allotments, those being allotments numbered 51, 52, 53, and 54 in T.32 N, R.11 E, on the basis that Navajos have no water rights from the Hopi reservoir. The Navajos through their local councilmen are protesting such use and asking that their allotments be returned to them; but, before taking up their claim I would like to know what basis, if any, there is for the Hopis claim as to water rights. Our next council meeting is on January 9 and I would appreciate hearing from you before then, if possible, and also about the other matter regarding use of water at the school farm, in order that I might have this in the form of a letter.

Yours very truly,

L. T. Hoffman  
District Supervisor

lth:mr

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