

## **Revenue Department Cancels Its Warning About Water Rights Adjudication Fee Scam**

The Montana Department of Revenue today canceled its alert to citizens in the area of Opportunity, Montana, and Deer Lodge County. The department issued the warning yesterday to citizens, asking them to be aware of a scam involving water rights adjudication fee payments.

Based on new information that has surfaced in the last 8 hours, the Department of Revenue and the Deer Lodge County Sheriff's Office have determined that the alleged improper collection of the water rights adjudication fee was, in fact, legitimate. The individual was collecting fees from about 40 individuals on behalf of an irrigation company.

Confusion arose when the individual provided payment receipts marked with the words "Department of Revenue." The receipts created an impression that the individual, who does not work for the department, was falsely representing himself as a department employee in order to collect the fee.

"While it is understandable how the concerns about unlawful collection arose, it turns out that the collection activity was legitimate because it was on behalf of a company that owed the fee," said revenue director Dan Bucks. "We apologize for any unnecessary alarm that our alert may have caused citizens in the area."

The Department of Revenue stresses to citizens that the department does not collect any taxes or fees by having employees go door-to-door. Citizens should call the department at 444-6900 if they encounter any suspicious collection activities related to taxes or fees.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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