

December 16, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 5665
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Michael L. Connor
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, NW, Room 7654
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable J Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Secretary Salazar, Commissioner Connor, and Assistant Secretary Darcy:

Last week you received a letter from U.S. Representative Cory Gardner (CO-4) regarding the Colorado River Basin Study, with a specific request to support the construction of the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) on the Cache la Poudre River in northern Colorado, a proposed project that is currently in the federal permitting process with the Army Corps of Engineers

(http://gardner.house.gov/sites/gardner.house.gov/files/Water%20Storage_December%2013.pdf) . Rep. Gardner's letter fails to inform you of the extreme controversy surrounding NISP, or of the project's many negative impacts to the environment, economy, and agricultural communities in northern Colorado.

Our organization, Save The Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper (STP), has been working very hard for eight years to stop NISP. We have put together a very large coalition of conservation groups – including 20 national, state, and regional groups working together for that purpose. Due to the threat of NISP, the Poudre River was named one of the “Most Endangered Rivers in America” by the national river protection organization, American Rivers. The permitting process is now many years late and the project at least \$150 million over budget, all due to the enormous negative impacts the project would cause and the extremely complex permitting process that is required to analyze and address those impacts, including:

1. NISP would further drain and destroy the Cache la Poudre River – NISP would drain over 40% (on average) of the water out of the river, and up to 71% in some months. This new drain of water is in addition to the 60% of water that is already drained and diverted out of the Poudre River through downtown Fort Collins.
2. NISP would negatively impact the downtown, recreation-based economy in Fort Collins.
3. NISP would negatively impact farms, leading to the dry-up and subdivision of up to 123,000 acres of farms in northern Colorado and the West Slope.
4. NISP would negatively impact the Colorado River because West Slope Colorado River water could be used to fill and re-fill the proposed Glade and Galetton Reservoirs.
5. NISP would negatively impact the ecology of the Poudre River corridor, including wetlands, through Fort Collins.
6. NISP would increase the likelihood of flooding on the Poudre River downstream of the proposed Glade Reservoir.

7. NISP would negatively impact water quality in the Poudre River, in Horsetooth Reservoir, and in the South Platte River.
8. NISP would negatively impact Poudre River water quality and drinking water quality due to TCE contamination from an abandoned missile site.
9. NISP would negatively impact fish and wildlife due to higher water temperatures in the Poudre River.
10. NISP would force small, struggling towns into exorbitant public debt loads – up to \$800 million in total.
11. NISP would involve significant interactions with oil and gas drilling and fracking – the proposed Galeton Reservoir has active, fracked wells on top of the reservoir footprint, and some NISP subscribing towns are currently selling water for fracking, an issue that must be addressed in the EIS process.
12. NISP would force communities along the Poudre River to likely spend hundreds of millions of dollars to upgrade their wastewater treatment plants to due to NISP degradation in streamflow of the Poudre River.

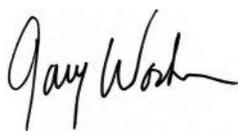
Because of these negative impacts to the economy and environment, the Fort Collins City Council voted to unanimously oppose NISP, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said NISP "is not in compliance with the Clean Water Act," and the State of Colorado Water Quality Control Division denied NISP an early water quality certification.

References supporting all of the points above can be found on our website here: <http://savethepoudre.org/stp-correspondence.html>

Save The Poudre supports the right of NISP communities to obtain the water they need for the future. STP is not trying to stop anyone from getting water. In fact, STP has proposed alternatives that will be the least environmentally damaging and most practicable ways for NISP communities to have a secure future water supply. We encourage you to review a recently released report by Western Resource Advocates, "A Better Future For The Poudre River," to learn more about alternatives to NISP, here: <http://www.westernresourceadvocates.org/water/nisp.php>.

Thank you for your interest in protecting and restoring the Cache la Poudre River of northern Colorado. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,



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