

**For Immediate Release
June 2, 2008
Save The Poudre Coalition and Conservation Partners**

Contact:

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American Conservation Groups Need More Time To Study NISP DEIS

"It took the Army Corps of Engineers 5 years and \$6 million to produce this document," said Gary Wockner. "The public should get more than 90 days to review it."

Fort Collins, CO -- Today a large coalition of American conservation groups asked the Army Corps of Engineers to extend the public comment period for the NISP DEIS from 90 days to 180 days. The extension, if granted, would make the final day of public comment on October 28, 2008, rather than the current July 30 deadline.

The coalition includes the Save The Poudre Coalition's 10 formal partnering groups, and 8 additional national and regional groups. The membership of these groups totals about 300,000 Coloradans and 3 million American citizens. (the letter and groups are printed below)

Longer public comment periods are increasingly the norm in Colorado for projects that have potentially huge environmental and economic impacts. At the bequest of conservation groups and Colorado congressmembers, the public comment period for the Roan Plateau oil/gas drilling project was extended. ([Read Senator Salazar's Roan request here.](#)) Additionally, Congresswoman Musgrave recently requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission extend the public comment period on the proposed uranium mine north of Fort Collins -- the NRC granted Musgrave's request. ([read article here.](#))

"The potential negative impacts of NISP/Glade on the Poudre River and our economy are easily as bad as those of the Roan Drilling or the Nunn uranium mine," said Gary Wockner. "It took the Army Corps of Engineers 5 years and \$6 million to produce this document. The public should get more than 90 days to review it."

"This is an extremely long and technical document," said Becky Long of the Colorado Environmental Coalition. "We are working our way through it, but we need much more time."

The main NISP DEIS runs to 702 pages. In addition, it includes over 2,000 pages of highly technical appendices.

"We have a large team of scientists and attorneys studying the document," said Mark Easter of

the Sierra Club. "The Poudre is one of the Most Endangered Rivers in America. We are meticulously analyzing the DEIS so that we can defend the Poudre River."

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LETTER SENT TO THE ACOE

Poudre Canyon Group of the Sierra Club PO Box 20, Fort Collins, CO 80522 www.rmc.sierraclub.org/pcg

Chandler Peter
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Denver Regulatory Office
9307 S. Wadsworth Boulevard
Littleton, CO 80128

Dear Mr. Peter;

May 30, 2008

Re: Request to extend the deadline for commenting on the Northern Integrated Supply Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement to October 28, 2008.

Currently, the closing date for the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) DEIS public comment period is July 30, 2008. The undersigned organizations respectfully request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers extend the comment deadline on the Northern Integrated Supply Project (NISP) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for an additional 90 days to October 28, 2008.

The NISP draft EIS and associated technical documentation includes more than 3000 pages, not including several hundred pages of references cited in the draft EIS and technical reports, but not yet available for download on the Corps of Engineers web site for this project. It will take at least 90 days just to read the documents, and if the comment period is not extended, there would be no time available for analysis and to provide substantive comments on this proposed project.

In our analysis we are investigating several issues related to this proposal, including but not limited to:

- water quality
- impacts on upland/riparian/aquatic habitat
- wetlands loss estimates
- water conservation and efficiency
- hydrologic impacts of the proposed operations plan
- cumulative effects

- project finances
- the underlying assumptions in the baseline data for the project

Most of the basic research and consultation with experts for these issues will take our coalition at least an additional 120 days from today, with at least 30 additional days needed after completing research to compile and synthesize our collective analyses and prepare specific, substantive comments for your consideration.

Public input is at the very core of the public review process embodied in the National Environmental Policy Act and the Corps of Engineers 404(b)(1) guidelines. An extension to the comment deadline will allow for more effective public participation in review and comment on this DEIS. Extending the deadline will not result in a significant delay considering that the project proponents and the Corps of Engineers have been working on elements of this DEIS for several years.

Our organizations request that you extend the public comment period to facilitate a more meaningful and substantive discussion of the Northern Integrated Supply Project DEIS. Not doing so risks overlooking significant degradation to waters of the United States, something that the Corps cannot allow under the Clean Water Act.

Sincerely,

Mark Easter
 Chair, Save the Poudre Coalition
 Conservation Chair, Sierra Club Poudre Canyon Group

On behalf of:

Gary Wockner	Save The Poudre Coalition
Phil Cafaro	Fort Collins Audubon Society
Rico Moore	Cache la Poudre River Foundation
Eric Hamrick	& nbsp; Citizen Planners
Matt Evans	Friends of the Poudre
David Karan	Poudre Paddlers
Todd Simmons	Wolverine Farm Publishing
Becky Long	Water Caucus Coordinator, Colorado Environmental Coalition
Bart Miller	Water Program Director, Western Resource Advocates
Drew Peternell	Trout Unlimited
Andrew Fahlund	American Rivers
Jonathan Proctor	Defenders of Wildlife
Steve Torbit	& nbsp; National Wildlife Federation
Pam Kiely	Environment Colorado
Wendy Keefover-Ring	WildEarth Guardians
Kathy Aterno	Colorado Program Director, Clean Water Action
Richard Fox	& nbsp; Trees, Water, People

cc:

U.S. Senator Ken Salazar

Governor Bill Ritter

State Representative Randy Fischer

State Representative John Kefalas

State Senator Bob Bacon

Darin Attebury, Fort Collins City Manager

Steve Gunderson, Director, Water Quality Control Division

Deborah Lebow, Dana Allen, and Larry Svoboda, Environmental Protection Agency