

For Immediate Release

Save The Poudre Coalition

www.SaveThePoudre.org

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State says NISP/Glade Reservoir DEIS “Insufficient” for State Water Quality Certification

“NCWCD is trying to fast-track this process,” said Gary Wockner, spokesperson for the Save The Poudre Coalition. “The citizens of Colorado need to rest assured that no fast-tracking will occur and that our state’s laws will be followed.”

Fort Collins, CO – On July 30th, the State of Colorado Water Quality Control Division (CWQCD) sent a letter to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD) stating that the Northern Integrated Supply Project’s (NISP) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was **“insufficient in that it does not provide the information necessary to make a preliminary anti-degradation determination, ...”** (letter attached: CWQCD_letter_page1.jpg and CWQCD_letter_page2.jpg).

“This letter is good news for the beautiful Cache la Poudre River. NCWCD is trying to fast-track this process,” said Gary Wockner, spokesperson for the Save The Poudre Coalition. “The citizens of Colorado need to rest assured that no fast-tracking will occur and that our state’s laws will be carried out.”

The letter – signed by CWQCD director Steven Gunderson – was sent to Carl Brouwer, project manager for NISP. NCWCD had asked the CWQCD to authorize a certification permit based on the Clean Water Act and the state’s 401 Water Quality Certification process. The state declined to issue the permit. The Save The Poudre Coalition also believes that not only is the draft EIS insufficient for the certification process, but substantial evidence exists that the Poudre River's water quality would be irreparably harmed by the proposed NISP/Glade project.

“This is an initial success for democracy,” said Gary Wockner. “The board of NCWCD is appointed by judges and not accountable to the public, but the state’s leaders are elected by citizens. Elected leaders – and their administrations – are accountable to the public and to the laws of the state. It’s great to hear that our state’s laws will be followed.”

The letter also states that: “Once the EIS is final..., the Division will take the time necessary to properly review the application, up to this statutory limit.” That time is “not to exceed one year.”

“We believe that this letter may foreshadow what we have been saying all along – that this will be a very long and complicated process,” said Gary Wockner. “NCWCD has been saying that

NISP is a 'slam dunk,' but we disagree. The Final EIS may not come out for a year or two (or longer). The permitting decision could be a full year (or longer) after that. The STP Coalition will make sure that our state and federal laws are followed.”

The Save The Poudre Coalition is made up of 12 national, state, and regional groups including Clean Water Action, Defenders of Wildlife, American Rivers, Colorado Environmental Coalition, Environment Colorado, Sierra Club – Rocky Mountain Chapter, Fort Collins Audubon Society, Citizen Planners, Wolverine Farm Publishing, Poudre Paddlers, Friends of the Poudre, Cache la Poudre River Foundation. Membership in these groups totals over 2 million American citizens.

“Our goal is to stop this destructive project,” said Gary Wockner. “NISP and its Glade Reservoir are bad for the environment, bad for farmers, bad for people, and bad for our economy -- this project is a billion-dollar boondoggle.”

The Save The Poudre Coalition is preparing a detailed critique of the NISP DEIS, including water quality concerns, and will submit those comments on or before the Sept. 13th deadline

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