

Flaming Gorge pipeline developer requests re-hearing

Steve Lynn

A developer has asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reconsider its decision rejecting his company's application for a proposed 500-mile water pipeline project.

Wyco Power and Water Inc. wants the commission to grant it a re-hearing on a pipeline that would pump water from Wyoming to the Front Range, according to a document filed with the government agency Friday.

"Wyco respectfully requests that the commission grant re-hearing of the dismissal of preliminary permit application for the regional watershed supply project and to issue the preliminary permit for a term of 36 months," the company stated in the document.

After rejecting Wyco's application in February, the commission became the second federal agency to deny the Flaming Gorge Project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers terminated its review of the pipeline in July.

Environmentalists who oppose the project criticized the company's request for re-hearing. They contend the project would diminish Green River flows by 25 percent.

"The Flaming Gorge Pipeline is a fatally flawed concept that would devastate the Green and Colorado river ecosystems - we will fight it at every opportunity," said Gary Wockner, director of Save The Poudre.

The pipeline would help meet the water needs of Colorado, which faces a water supply shortfall of between 500,000 and 700,000 acre feet in the next two decades, Wyco principal Aaron Million has said. He contends the federal government will take steps to protect river flows for recreation as well as enhance fisheries.