



October 7, 2011

To: Chandler Peter, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Cc: Jim Martin, US EPA

RE: Cumulative impacts of NISP, Halligan/Seaman, and Greeley Pipeline with WISE-caused flow depletions in the South Platte River must be studied as a part of the NISP SDEIS

Mr. Peter,

The WISE project proposes to initially remove 10,000 acre feet of water per year from the South Platte River; in the reasonably foreseeable future, WISE will remove up to 60,000 acre feet<sup>1</sup>. It is unclear to us what portion of this water will be used to extinction and not flow back into the South Platte River, but given that the municipalities in question provide water to many grass-growing neighborhoods, we assume that a majority of this water will be permanently removed from the South Platte River.

Because streamflows in the South Platte River must be analyzed as a part of the SDEIS for NISP, as well as for the DEIS for Halligan/Seaman and the associated Greeley Pipeline, we believe the impacts of WISE on the South Platte River must also be studied to achieve a necessary cumulative impacts study for projects impacting the South Platte River in the reasonably foreseeable future. Impacts would potentially involve fish and wildlife, riparian habitat, water quality (especially, but not limited to, salinity), economic impacts to fisheries and recreation areas, and any impacts to other water users and water rights. Failure to analyze these impacts as a part of the NISP SDEIS would result in non-compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act (involving the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program).

Please contact me with any questions. Please confirm that you have received this letter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Wockner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Wockner, PhD, Director  
Save the Poudre: Poudre Waterkeeper  
<http://savethepoudre.org>  
970-218-8310

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci\\_19042401](http://www.denverpost.com/search/ci_19042401)