

For Immediate Release

Save The Poudre Coalition

<http://www.SaveThePoudre.org>

December 15, 2008

Contact: Gary Wockner, 970-218-8310 (Spokesperson)

Army Corps changes course, refuses public input, rebuffs EPA

Save The Poudre Coalition issues public "Call To Action!"

Fort Collins, CO -- On Monday, Dec. 1st, the Army Corps of Engineers -- the permitting agency for the NISP/Glade Reservoir scheme -- sent emails to the public saying they would no longer comply with requests to discuss the NISP/Glade project with public. A telephone conversation with the Corps by the Save The Poudre Coalition confirmed their position. More recent telephone calls to the Corps have not been returned. During the public comment period for NISP and afterwards, the Save The Poudre Coalition requested meetings with the Army Corps -- those requests have now been denied.

Of additional serious concern, the Army Corps also recently refused a request from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to stop moving forward with the permitting process and to "elevate" the NISP/Glade decision to a higher level of regulatory oversight. This new letter refusing that EPA request, [available for download here](#), was sent from the Army Corps to EPA regional administrators in Denver. This letter was sent from the Corps to EPA after EPA sent a blistering letter to the Corps which stated that NISP/Glade does not comply with the Clean Water Act ([that original letter is available here for download](#)).

The Army Corps refused EPA's request based not on the merits of EPA's comments but rather on a technicality. The Army Corp's letter stated that the NISP review would not be elevated -- an important administrative process that would have allowed for careful evaluation of the project's impacts -- because EPA's comments were submitted shortly after the public comment deadline for the NISP DEIS.

"We are extremely concerned about the Army Corps' recent decisions," said Gary Wockner, spokesperson for the Save The Poudre Coalition. "Everything seems to have changed in the last few weeks. The Corps seems to have reversed course and the public is now isolated. The dispute between the Army Corps and EPA needs immediate public scrutiny."

The Save The Poudre Coalition (STP) is requesting that the public immediately contact the Army Corps of Engineers with the following requests:

1. Grant STP the meeting requested during the formal public comment period. This meeting would allow all parties to ensure that the concepts outlined in STP's public comments were clearly communicated.
2. Comply with the EPA's request to "elevate" the NISP/Glade project to a higher level of decision making as per the 404(q) process.

3. Comply with the EPA's request to consider other substantive alternatives in the DEIS in addition to NISP/Glade, including the Coalition's "Healthy Rivers Alternative."

"We ask the public to contact the Army Corps of Engineers as soon as possible," continued Wockner. "The public has been isolated, the federal regulatory agency that protects America's environment -- the Environmental Protection Agency -- has been rebuffed, and the Poudre River hangs in the balance."

The public can contact the Army Corps of Engineers at this phone/email:

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303-979-4120

US Army Corps of Engineers

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