

12/31/2020

Proposed Cove Reservoir off the East Fork of Virgin River in Kane County, Utah

NEWS

[Kane County Looking to Dam Virgin River Latest Major Project](#). Brian Maffly of *Salt Lake Tribune*.

[Last Chance to Comment for Cove Reservoir](#). Helene Jorgensen of *Southern Utah News*.

[Water Managers Promote Cove Reservoir Near Zion National Park](#). Joan Meiners of *St. George Spectrum & Daily News*.

[Water Officials Propose New Reservoir Off Virgin River To Benefit Kane & Washington Counties](#). Mori Kessler of *St. George News*.

###

For more information, visit On The Colorado [HERE](#)

12/24/2020

Suite of Stories by The Arizona Republic: The Lack of Clean Water for the Hopi and Navajo Nations

The following articles in The Arizona Republic were written by Ian James with photographs by David Wallace and Nick Oza

[With Drought And Pumping Hopi Natural Springs Are Drying Up](#)

[The Navajo Nations Wait For Water Persists With Few Answers](#)

[Hopi Tribe Pushes For Solutions For Many Without Clean Drinking Water](#)

[For The Hopi Tribe Withering Corn Crops Show Impact Of Climate Change](#)

[PHOTO GALLERY](#) of Hopi Springs by the photographers of *The Arizona Republic*

###

Additional Indigenous News in Arizona by *The Arizona Republic*

[Click here](#) to read this story by Ryan Randazzo of *The Arizona Republic* called "Coal Stacks at Navajo Generating Station in Arizona Demolished."

12/18/2020

A Controversial Highway Through Book Cliffs Is Tabled For Now Due to Local Opposition

[Click here](#) to read this story by Carter Pape in *Times-Independent*

[Click here](#) to read this story by Kate Groetzinger of *KUER Radio*

###

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Click here](#) to visit the Far Country website

12/14/2020

Fossil Fuel Fund Set Aside to Help Utahns Being Returned to Industry Lawsuit Says

[Click here](#) to read this story by Robin Kaiser-Schatzlein of *The Guardian*

For more information visit these sites:

Colorado River Connected

2019 - [Community Impact Board uses public funds to promote expansion of oil and gas development in the Uintah Basin](#)

On The Colorado

2014 - [The Eastern Utah County Coalition for the Development of Oil and Gas Infrastructure](#)

2016 - [The Utah CIB and a Public Give-Away](#)

2019 - [Uinta Basin Railway Environmental Impact Statement](#)

12/11/2020

Proposed Green River Nuclear Reactor Dead in the Water

NEWS RELEASE

Sarah Fields
Program Director
Uranium Watch
PO Box 1306
Monticello, Utah 84535
435-260-8384

Green River Nuclear Reactor Dead in the Water
San Juan Water Conservancy District Terminates Blue Castle Project Water Rights

Moab, Utah. December 11, 2020 - Blue Castle Holdings Inc. (BCH) no longer holds a lease for 24,000 acre feet of water from the Green River for the proposed Blue Castle Project nuclear reactor near Green River, Utah. The 2007 Water Rights Lease Agreement between the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) and BCH was terminated on March 25, 2019. BCH also has a Water Rights Lease Agreement with the Kane County Water Conservancy District (KCWCD) for 29,600 acre feet of water, for a total of 53,600 acre feet (~ 87 million gallons per day) for a 2-unit AP-1000 reactor. This means that BCH no longer has a right to 45% of the water appropriated for the Blue Castle Project.

A nuclear reactor at Green River would have had extreme long-term adverse impacts to the Colorado River Basin, the health and well-being of the citizens of Green River and nearby Utah and Colorado communities, the Canyonlands of South East Utah, local recreation and agricultural economies, endangered and threatened fish species, and all aspects of the local and regional environment.

The Lease Agreement was terminated by the SJWCD because BCH defaulted on its payment obligations. Without informing the Districts, BCH failed to make the expected lease payments, starting in 2016. BCH finally made payments to the District from 2018 to 2020. The status of the Water Rights Lease Agreement between the KCWCD and BCH for 29,600 acre feet for the Blue Castle Project is unclear.

BCH had no experience in the licensing, construction, or operation of a nuclear reactor. BCH never submitted an Early Site Permit Application (ESPA) to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). BCH last contacted the NRC in 2011, informing the NRC that they would submit an ESPA in late 2012.

BCH has never admitted publicly that they defaulted on the Water Rights Lease payments, that one of the lease agreements has been terminated, or that the Blue Castle Project is dead.

According to Sarah Fields, Uranium Watch Program Director, “All along protesters and plaintiffs asserted that the Blue Castle Project was not economically feasible.” “Protestors and plaintiffs questioned whether BCH could raise the money necessary to submit a license application and construct and operate a nuclear reactor.” “It turned out they did not even have the money to pay the Water Conservancy Districts for the Green River water.”

Background

From 2009 to 2016, BCH and the San Juan and Kane County Water Conservancy Districts convinced the State Engineer, Division of Water Rights; the Utah 7th District Court, and the Utah Court of Appeals that the BCH proposal to license, construct, and operate a 2-unit reactor about 4 miles west of Green River was economically feasible.

2007 — Water Rights Lease Agreements:

BCH (formerly Transition Power Development LLC) signed Water Rights Lease Agreements with the San Juan and Kane County Water Conservancy Districts for a total of 53,600 acre feet from the Green River for a proposed 2-unit nuclear reactor. The Agreements required the Districts to submit applications to change the use, place of use, and point of diversion for the Water Rights.

2009 — Water Rights Change Applications

March 30, 2009, and August 27, 2009, the KCWCD and SJWCD, respectively, submitted Applications for Permanent Change to the Division of Water Rights.

2009 — Water Right Change Public Notice and Protests

The proposed Water Rights Change Applications were noticed in September 2009. Protests and hearing requests were filed by Uranium Watch, Living Rivers, HEAL Utah, Center for Water Advocacy, Sierra Club, Grand County, Moki Mac River Expeditions, Holiday River Expeditions, Utah Rivers Council, and others.

2009 — Administrative Hearing

A DWR informal administrative hearing was held in Green River on January 12, 2010. Additional information was filed with the Division by the respective parties.

2012 — State Engineer Approves Change Applications

The State Engineer approved the appropriation of water from the Green River for the Blue Castle Project on January 20, 2012.

2012 — Request for Reconsideration and Denial

Uranium Watch et al. and HEAL Utah et al. requested reconsideration of the State Engineer’s decision in early February 2012. The State Engineer denied the requests for reconsideration on February 28, 2012.

2012 — Appeal of State Engineer’s Decision

Then, on March 27, 2012, attorneys for Uranium Watch, Living Rivers, HEAL Utah, Center for Water Advocacy, Holiday River Expeditions, Utah Rivers Council, and others filed an appeal of the State Engineer's decision regarding the SJWCD and KCWCD Change Applications in the 7th Utah District Court for Emery County.

2013 — District Court Hearing

Starting September 23, 2013, Judge M. George Harmond, Jr. of the Utah 7th District Court held a 5-day hearing in Price, Utah, on the appeal of the State Engineer's appropriation of water from the Green River for the proposed Blue Castle Project. The proceeding was the culmination of a 4-year effort to bring some sense to the allocation of Utah waters for an ill-advised, risky, and speculative energy project.

2013 — 7th District Court Decision

On November 27, 2013, Judge George M. Harmond, Jr. issued a decision upholding the Utah State Engineer's appropriation of 53,600 acre feet from the Green River for the proposed Blue Castle Project.

2014 — Appeal of 7th District Court Decision

On May 16, 2014, attorneys for the Plaintiffs filed a Notice of Appeal of the 7th District Court's decision to the Utah Court of Appeals.

2016 — Oral Arguments and Court of Appeals Decision

Oral arguments were held on January 26, 2016, before the Utah Court of Appeals. The opinion of the Court of Appeals, upholding the 7th District Court's decision was issued on July 21, 2016.

2016 — State Engineer's Decision Becomes Final

Plaintiff's did not file a petition to the Utah Supreme Court for review of the Appeals Court decision within 30 days, finalizing the Appeals Court decision upholding the State Engineer's decision

2016 — Conclusion of Court Challenges

The court challenges concluded in September 2016, when plaintiffs did not appeal the Court of Appeals affirmation to the Utah Supreme Court. Soon after, the first pre-operational payments to the Districts were due: \$80,000 to SJWCD and \$100,000 to KCWCD. Those initial Water Rights Lease Agreement payments were not made. BCH had defaulted on its Water Rights Lease Agreement obligations.

2018 — SJWCD letter to BCH

On March 15, 2018, SJWCD informed BCH that they had 120 days to cure the default, or they would receive a Notice of Termination.

2019 — Notice of Termination

The Notice of Termination was issued on March 25, 2019. BCH did arrange a payment schedule with the District and made payments to the SJWCD over the next year.

2020 — Final BCH Payment to SJWCD

BCH made a final payment to the SJWCD, for a total of \$258,533.69 paid to the District.

Additional Information:

- Lease Termination Letter:
https://uraniumwatch.org/sjwcd/SJWCD_toBCH_LeaseTermination_032519.pdf
- Lease Payment:
https://uraniumwatch.org/sjwcd/SJWCD_toBCH_PaymentsDue_100119.pdf
- Lease Payment Schedule:
https://uraniumwatch.org/sjwcd/SJWCD_BCH_PaymentSchedule_093919.pdf

- Blue Castle Project Water Rights History and Links to Documents:
<https://uraniumwatch.org/bluecastle.waterrights.htm>

- No Green River Nuke! 2012 Protest:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xpX4I3kc8c>

- No Green River Nuke! 2015 Protest:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KZNt8uLUn0>

11/26/2020

Thanksgiving Day: Suite of News and Opinion from High Country News

[Click here](#) to read three articles published by High Country News on Thanksgiving Day 2020, and as follows:

1. 20 signs that the climate crisis has come home to roost From Alaska to Wyoming, evidence shows the climate is off-kilter in the West. Jonathan Thompson | Nov. 26, 2020
 2. Public lands top Rep. Debra Haaland's agenda One of the first Native American women elected to Congress is fighting fossil fuel development on 'the most pristine and beautiful places in our country.' Jimmy Tobias | May 24, 2019
 3. Tom Udall: It's past time we confront the climate and nature crises. For our survival, we can look to my father's vision as an alternative to our current path. Tom Udall | OPINION | Jan. 31, 2020
-

11/19/2020

Utah's State Engineer Rejects Plan to Divert Green River Water for Colorado Entrepreneur

[Click here](#) to read this story by Brian Maffly of *The Salt Lake Tribune*

11/16/2020

Are We Really Past the Point of No Return on Climate? Scientists Respond To Controversial New Study

[Click here](#) to read this climate study from Norway.

A controversial new climate study has found that, even if greenhouse gas emissions were halted tomorrow, it might not be enough to stop temperatures from continuing to rise.

The study, published in *Scientific Reports* Thursday, was conducted by two researchers at the BI Norwegian Business School. They used the ESCIMO climate model to determine that, even if emissions ceased tomorrow, the permafrost would continue to thaw for hundreds of years.

"According to our models, humanity is beyond the point-of-no-return when it comes to halting the melting of permafrost using greenhouse gas cuts as the single tool," lead author and professor emeritus of climate strategy Jorgen Randers told AFP. "If we want to stop this melting process we must do something in addition – for example, suck CO₂ out of the atmosphere and store it underground, and make Earth's surface brighter."

However, other scientists have pointed to the simplicity of the model Randers and his colleague Ulrich Goluke used and cautioned against misinterpreting their findings as a reason to give up on climate action.

"This paper clearly may be cited in support of a misleading message that it is now 'too late' to avoid catastrophic climate change, which would have the potential to cause unnecessary despair," University of Exeter climate scientist professor Richard Betts said in response. "However, the study is nowhere near strong enough to make such a frightening message credible."

So what exactly does the study say? The researchers used their model to see what would happen by 2500 if emissions stopped today and if they slowly declined to zero by 2100, as AFP explained. In the first scenario, temperatures would still rise to around 2.3 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels within the next 50 years, taper off, then rise again starting in 2150. By 2500, the world would be around three degrees Celsius warmer and sea levels would rise by around three meters (approximately 9.8 feet). In

the second, temperature and sea level rise would end up in the same place, but the temperature increase would be much faster.

The reason for the persistent increase comes from three feedback loops, the model found.

1. The melting of sea ice, which means that the sun's heat is absorbed into the darker ocean instead of reflected back by the bright ice.
2. The thawing of permafrost, which releases more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
3. Increased moisture in the atmosphere, which in turn raises temperatures.

The only way to have prevented runaway climate change would have been to have stopped burning fossil fuels between 1960 and 1970, the model found, as USA TODAY reported. In order to stop temperatures and sea levels from rising now, we would have to remove at least 33 gigatons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere every year starting this one.

The study authors were the first to admit their findings were limited to one model.

"We encourage other model builders to explore our discovery in their (bigger) models, and report on their findings," they wrote.

However, Betts noted that their model was not the model used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and did not realistically simulate how the climate works.

Penn State University meteorologist Michael Mann agreed. He told USA TODAY that it was not very complex and did not accurately reproduce atmospheric and ocean circulation systems.

"While such models can be useful for conceptual inferences, their predictions have to be taken with great skepticism. Far more realistic climate models that do resolve the large-scale dynamics of the ocean, atmosphere and carbon cycle, do NOT produce the dramatic changes these authors argue for based on their very simplified model," he said. "It must be taken not just with a grain of salt, but a whole salt-shaker worth of salt."

That said, even the models used by the IPCC show that we will need to draw down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to reach the Paris agreement goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, even if we achieve zero emissions by 2050.

"What the study does draw attention to is that reducing global carbon emissions to zero by 2050 is just the start of our actions to deal with climate change," University College London climate professor Mark Maslin said in response.

09/30/2020

Utes Fear Uranium Mill is Becoming Radioactive Waste Dump

[Click here](#) to read this story in Utah's *Public News Service*

09/29/2020

OpEd about speculators buying up water rights near Grand Junction

[Click here](#) to read this five-part series by Bill Hudson, Editor of the Pagosa Daily Post

09/24/2020

Extension requested of Bureau of Reclamation on Lake Powell Pipeline timeline

[Click here](#) to read this story by Brian Maffly of *The Salt Lake Tribune* called "After Insisting on Expedited Review Utah Now Asks Feds to Delay Lake Powell Pipeline" KUTV story by Jennifer Weaver

The Utah Division of Water Resources and Washington County Water Conservancy District have requested an extended timeline from the Bureau of Reclamation to consider comments received on the Lake Powell Pipeline's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) from the public, tribes, non-government organizations, and fellow Colorado River Basin states.

"The Lake Powell Pipeline is a critical water infrastructure project for Utah," stated Todd Adams, director, Utah Division of Water Resources, in a news release. "The extension will allow more time to consider the comments and complete further analysis, which will contribute to a more comprehensive draft and final EIS."

Thousands of comments expressing both support and questions were received during the recent public comment period, which ended on Sept. 8.

"We're grateful to all those who have participated in the NEPA process," stated Zach Renstrom, general manager, Washington County Water Conservancy District. "Thoughtful comments were submitted, and thoughtful responses are deserved. This is the purpose and process of NEPA."

The Bureau of Reclamation will establish a new timeline for the water delivery project that will provide water to 10 communities in southern Utah in response to this request. The extension will allow the bureau time to prepare a supplement to the draft EIS, which is common during NEPA.

[Read](#) the letter from Utah Division of Water Resources

09/16/2020

Five-Year Projection by USBR: Dips in Lake Powell Colorado River Reminder Water Supply Isn't Unlimited

[Click here](#) to read this story by Sam Metz of *The Associated Press*

[Click here](#) to read this story by Tony Davis of *Arizona Daily Star*

[Click here](#) to read this story by Ian James of *Arizona Republic*

###

[Reclamation Website](#) for Colorado River System Mid- to Long-term Projections

[The documents of the Five Year Projection by Bureau of Reclamation](#)

09/13/2020

Why Some in Nevada See Utah Pipeline Plan as 'First Salvo in Coming Water Wars'

[Click here](#) to read this story by Brian Maffly of *Salt Lake Tribune* called "Surrounding States Bash Utah's Lake Powell Pipeline Project"

[Click here](#) to read this story by Hillary Davis from *Las Vegas Sun* called "Why some in Nevada see Utah pipeline plan as 'first salvo in coming water wars?'"

[Click here](#) to read this OpEd by Tick Segerblom called "Utah Pipeline Plan An Affront to Nevada"

[Click here](#) to read this OpEd by Kyle Roerink called "St. George's Water Grab Worth Fighting"

[Click here](#) to read this story by Rachel Christiansen of *Nevada Public Radio*; a discussion between Kyle Roerink, executive director of Great Basin Water Network, and Zachary Renstrom, the general manager of the Washington County Water Conservancy District.

###

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- [Nevada](#)
 - [Six States](#)
 - [LPP Coalition Comments](#). Conserve Southwest Utah.
 - [Utah Rivers Council](#)
 - [Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper](#)
 - [Great Basin Water Network & Great Basin Waterkeeper](#)
 - [National Parks and Conservation Association](#)
 - [Arizona Game and Fish](#)
 - [Peter Mayer](#). Technical Memo.
 - [Harding & Lynker](#). Technical Memo.
-

09/08/2020

PUBLIC COMMENTS & News on Lake Powell Pipeline DEIS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- [Nevada](#)
- [Six States](#)
- [LPP Coalition Comments](#). Conserve Southwest Utah.
- [Utah Rivers Council](#)
- [Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper](#)
- [Great Basin Water Network & Great Basin Waterkeeper](#)
- [National Parks and Conservation Association](#)
- [Arizona Game and Fish](#)
- [Peter Mayer](#). Technical Memo.
- [Harding & Lynker](#). Technical Memo.
- [WaterDM](#). Technical Memo.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

WEBINAR: [Western Resource Advocates](#) on August 25, 2020 "Lake Powell Pipeline Leaky Proposal Does'nt Hold Water Under Scrutiny"

- [Slide presentations](#) for the webinar
- [Transcript](#) for presentation by Eric Kuhn.

Surrounding states bash Utah's Lake Powell pipeline project

By Brian Maffly of Salt Lake Tribune on September 9, 2020

All of Utah's partner states sharing the Colorado River's water are urging the federal government to halt the Lake Powell pipeline, opening a schism in the interstate compact

that has divvied up the mighty river's flow for the past century.

In a joint letter to Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on Tuesday, those states asked the secretary to block the Bureau of Reclamation from completing its ongoing environmental impact statement (EIS) "until such time the seven Basin States and the Department of the Interior are able to reach consensus regarding outstanding legal and operational concerns raised" by the project.

Lower basin states have agreed to cutbacks needed to stabilize levels at Lake Mead and Lake Powell. But that hasn't deterred Utah from pursuing its plan to suck 86,000 acre-feet a year from Lake Powell to feed further growth around St. George.

On Tuesday, the public comment period expired on Reclamation's draft EIS, paving the way for a final decision in the coming months.

Environmental opponents of the project contend Utah's fast-growing Washington County can meet its water needs from local sources and conservation and its construction costs will lead to crushing tax hikes. Major southwestern cities have achieved sharp reductions in per-capita water use while St. George continues to consume water at some of the fastest rates in the region.

But until Tuesday, Utah's compact partners had remained silent on their opposition, at least publicly. Their letter to Interior contends the project, should it win approval, would be bogged down in litigation for years.

Todd Adams, director of the Utah Division of Water Resources, sounded an optimistic note that the states' differences can be worked out.

"As Colorado River Basin States, we've resolved complex challenges and concerns before, and we will do the same now. We remain committed to working with the other basin states to mitigate their legal and operational concerns raised by Utah's intent to use a portion of its Colorado River allotment to provide water to Washington County," Adams said in a statement.

"We will use the next several months to address their concerns," he promised.

"More than 20 years of planning have gone into the Lake Powell Pipeline to meet the needs of Washington County's growing population and to diversify the area's water supply," Adams said. "Without the project, the county's economic viability and water security will be harmed."

The Salt Lake Tribune will update this story.

[Click here](#) to read this story by Hillary Davis from *Las Vegas Sun*

[Click here](#) to read this OpEd by Tick Segerblom called "Utah Pipeline Plan An Affront to Nevada"

[Click here](#) to read this OpEd by Kyle Roerink called "St. George's Water Grab Worth Fighting"

[Click here](#) to read this story by Sam Metz and Felcia Fonseca in *The Associated Press*

08/15/2020

Controversy Over Pine Valley Pipeline (groundwater over appropriation)

NEWS

- [Beaver County Hopes to Block Neighbor's Groundwater Pumping Project](#). SL Trib.
 - [Sister County Controversy Over Pine Valley Pipeline](#). SGN.
 - [Cedar Valley Moves Ahead with Pine Valley Water Pipeline Project](#). SGN.
 - [Iron County Water District Accomplishes Monumental Steps to Importing Water into Cedar Valley](#). SGN.
 - [OpEd: Iron County Water Needs are 1st Priority](#). SGN.
 - [Overappropriation Water Rights Threatens Iron County](#). SGN.
 - [Pine Valley Water Supply Project Scoping Meeting Draws Few Attendees](#). SGN.
 - [Searching New Water Sources: Ways to Balance Aquifer](#). SGN.
 - [Water Board One Step Closer to Securing New Water Rights](#). SGN.
-

08/13/2020

Lion's Back litigation now moot in favor of Plaintiffs. Original 2008 plan moving forward, but incrementally due to Covid and economic downturn

[Click here](#) to read this story by Rachel Fixsen of *Moab Sun News*

[Click here](#) to read this story by Doug McMurdo of *Times-Independent*

08/12/2020

Trump Admin backs off oil & gas drilling near national parks in Grand County & Moab

[Click here](#) to read this story by Amy Joi O'Donoghue of *Deseret News*

[Click here](#) to read this story by Anna M. Philips of *Los Angeles Times*

08/04/2020

PR: Lawsuit Challenges Nearly \$28 Million in Public Funding for Utah Oil Railway

For Immediate Release, August 4, 2020

Contact:

- **Wendy Park**, Center for Biological Diversity, (510) 844-7138, wpark@biologicaldiversity.org
- **John Weisheit**, Living Rivers, (435) 260-2590, john@livingrivers.org

Lawsuit Challenges Nearly \$28 Million in Public Funding for Utah Oil Railway

Project Would Harm Local Communities, Escalate Climate Crisis

SALT LAKE CITY - Conservation groups sued the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board today for granting \$27.9 million in public money to a proposed railway that would move oil from the Uinta Basin to refineries in other states.

Under state law the funds administered by the board must go toward public projects that help communities deal with harms from mineral development on federal public lands. Today's lawsuit, filed in Utah district court in Salt Lake City, says the board broke state law when it transferred money to the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition to advance the Uinta Basin Railway. The coalition, which sought the grant funding, is also named as a defendant in the suit.

"This money is meant to help repair damage done by the fossil fuel industry, not subsidize it," said Wendy Park, an attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. "The board is supposed to help rural communities build health centers, libraries, and other community facilities. Instead it's giving gifts to private oil companies and buying more pollution."

The proposed 85-mile Uinta Basin Railway would lead to a significant increase in oil extraction in the region. New drilling and fracking would damage roads, strain public facilities and services, worsen the climate crisis and harm public health.

Before the board's June 2019 vote to fully fund the project, a state assistant attorney general [WARNED](#) that issuing the grant would be illegal.

“The Uinta Basin Railway has been designed for one thing only: oil,” said John Weisheit, conservation director at Living Rivers. “The railroad ends at two places, a major oil producer’s doorstep and the middle of a remote drilling field. The basin’s residents would never set foot on this railroad, but their money is being taken to build it.”

In May the Office of the Legislative Auditor General released an audit raising serious concerns about the Community Impact Board, including improper funding of economic development projects. The report found that the board often failed to follow rules and guidelines limiting awards to \$5 million and requiring matching funds. The [AUDIT](#) highlighted the Uinta Basin Railway as one of the projects demonstrating the need to improve the board’s policies and practices.

The railway could lead to a quadrupling of oil production in northeast Utah’s Uinta Basin, worsening smog in an area that already violates federal pollution standards because of oil and gas extraction. The railroad, along with access roads, well pads, pipelines and increased trucking, would also fragment wildlife habitat, strain precious water supplies and cause greenhouse gas emissions.

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 1.7 million members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.

Living Rivers is a nonprofit environmental membership organization, based in Moab, Utah. Living Rivers promotes river restoration and seeks to revive natural habitat and the spirit of rivers by undoing the extensive damage done by dams, diversions and pollution on the Colorado Plateau. Learn more at www.livingrivers.org

[DOWNLOAD the Petition and Exhibits](#)

###

Story by Brian Maffly of *Salt Lake Tribune* [HERE](#)

[Click here](#) to read this story by John Thompson of UB Media and called "Developer Agrees to Purchase Railway Intellectual Property."

UB Media website: <https://ubmedia.biz/news/17422/developer-agrees-to-purchase-railway-intellectual-property/>

07/29/2020

How a tiny fish is helping Utah and the West tackle big questions about the Colorado River’s future

[Click](#) here to read this story by Judy Fahys of *Inside Climate News*

07/10/2020

USA Commissioner Demands Mexico Deliver Rio Grande Water to USA

[Click here](#) to read this story by Nathaniel Puente of Fox News.

06/21/2020

Gila River Diversion Project Halted by vote of Interstate Stream Commission

[Click here](#) to read this story by Geoffrey Plant of *Silver City Daily Press*

News of August 11, 2020 by Kendra Chamberlain of *The NM Political Report*: "[ISC mulls water projects after diversion project scrapped](#)"

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Visit On The Colorado](#)

06/10/2020

**Feds Release Environmental Analysis on Possible Powell Pipeline Routes, Critics and Tribes Point to Flaws
NEWS**

- Salt Lake Tribune by B. Maffly, June 2020: [Feds Release Environmental Analysis on Possible Powell Pipeline Routes, Critics Point to Flaws](#)
- Salt Lake Tribune by B. Maffly, June 2020: [Lake Powell Pipeline Will Make River Angry, Southern Paiutes Warn as Feds Release Analysis](#)

Website for the Draft Enviromental Impact Statement (DEIS) is [HERE](#)

DUE DATE: 90 day public comment period ends September 8, 2020

Comments on the draft EIS/draft RMPA and requests to be added to the mailing/ notification list may be submitted by mail, e-mail or fax to:

Lake Powell Pipeline Project
Bureau of Reclamation
Provo Area Office
302 East Lakeview Parkway
Provo, Utah 84606
lpp@usbr.gov
801-379-1159

DEIS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE

- [Federal Register Notice for LPPP DEIS](#)
- [Draft EIS Vol 1](#)
- [Appendix A: Consultation and Coordination](#)
- [Appendix B: Purpose and Need Report](#)
- [Appendix C-13: Vegetation Communities](#)
- [Supplement 01: Vegetation Species of Tribal Concern](#)
- [Appendix C-19: Visual Resources](#)
- [Appendix C-20: Cultural Resources](#)
- [Appendix C: Supplemental Information \(Part One\)](#)
- [Appendix C Supplemental Information \(Part Two\)](#)
- [Appendix D: Analysis and Perspective of the Tribes](#)
- [Supplement 03: Environmental Justice](#)
- [Supplement 04: Cultural Affiliation & Cultural Ethnographic Resources](#)
- [Supplement 05: FERC Appendix on Cultural & Ethnographic Resources](#)
- [Appendix E: Plan of Development](#)
- [ALL DOCUMENTS ABOVE COMBINED](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ON THE COLORADO: Articles about the Lake Powell Pipeline

- September 23, 2019: [The Administrative History of Lake Powell Pipeline](#)
- October 22, 2018 - [The Water Rights of Central Utah Project, including Ultimate Phase](#)
- September 18, 2018 - [Green River Block Environmental Assessment for a Federal Water Contract for Eastern Utah Counties](#)
- August 22, 2018- [Lake Powell Pipeline Permitting Process Renewed](#)
- June 28, 2018 - [Proposal to amend the Arizona Strip Resource Management Plan \(RMP\)](#)
- December 26, 2017 - [Lake Powell Pipeline Approved for Environmental Analysis \(Temporarily Suspended\)](#)
- March 21, 2011 - [Lake Powell Pipeline Documents](#)
- June 03, 2010 - [Ultimate Phase Water Rights Stored at Flaming Gorge Reservoir](#)
- May 06, 2008 - [Announcing: Scoping of environmental issues for the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline Project in Utah and Arizona](#)

06/03/2020

Water & Tribe Initiative: Making Sense of the Basin (Colorado River Tribes)

About this Report

This report summarizes the results of more than 100 confidential interviews, three workshops, and countless conversations with tribal and other leaders throughout the basin -- all focused on designing a collaborative process to develop the next set of

guidelines for the Colorado River. The Colorado River provides water to more than 40 million people in two countries, seven states, and 29 Indian tribes. The demand for water currently exceeds available supply in any given year and is complicated by chronic drought and the uncertainty of impacts from climate change. The river is governed by a set of laws, policies, and institutions collectively referred to as the “Law of the River.” Several key components of this framework, including the 2007 Interim Guidelines, Minute 323, and the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan all expire in 2026, creating a unique opportunity to revise and update the framework for managing the river. Since 2017, the Water & Tribes Initiatives has pursued two complimentary objectives: to enhance tribal capacity to participate in basin-wide policy decisions and to advance sustainable water management in the basin through collaborative decision-making.

[Press Release](#)

[Document: *Making Sense of the Basin*](#)

[Distribution List](#)

05/23/2020

Company Plans Dams in Canyon Next to Little Colorado River

[Click here](#) to read this story by Ian James of *The Arizona Republic*

Additional Information:

[Click here](#) to read the a few stories about the original project proposal in the gorge of the Little Colorado River

05/21/2020

Utah Court of Appeals Reverses 7th District Court's Decision: Citizens Prevail on Lack of Due Process about Wind Energy Development in San Juan County

NEWS

- 2020, May - [San Juan County Loses Appeal Involving the Wind Farm and Northern Monticello Alliance](#). The Petroglyph.
- 2020, February - [Wind Farm Fails to Mitigate Noise, Light and Flicker Impact for Local Property Owners](#). The Petroglyph.
- 15, November - [Wind Farm Hearing on County Corruption](#). The Petroglyph.

- 2015, November - [Last Minute Save by Adams and Benally Benefits sPower](#). The Petroglyph.
- 2015, September - [Open Meeting Laws Ignored by Planning Zoning Chairman](#). The Petroglyph.

LEGAL

- [Appellate Decision on Due Process Reversed](#). NMA vs SJC.
-

05/20/20

Questions Simmer About Lake Powell's Future As Drought Climate Change Point To Drier Colorado River

[Click here](#) to read this story by Gary Pitzer of Water Education Foundation

05/15/2020

Supreme Court Rejects City's Effort To Avoid Public Involvement In Contentious Lion's Back Development

- [Click here](#) to read this story by Doug McMurdo of *Times-Independent*
- [Click here](#) to read the opinion of the Appellate Court that upheld the complaint from citizens.
- [Click here](#) to read this story by Maggie McQuire of *Moab Sun News*

Additional news about Lion's Back Resort

- [Click here](#) to read this story about Appellate Court overturning Judge Lyle Anderson's decision. By Doug McMurdo pf *Moab Times Independent*
- [Click here](#) to read this story about Appellate Court ruling in favor of Citizens. By Maggie McQuire of *Moab Sun News*
- Part One: [Click here](#) to listen to Molly Marcello and the attorneys on KZMU Radio: News and Public Affairs
- Part Two: [Click here](#) to listen to Molly Marcello and Doug McMurdo on KZMU Radio: News and Public Affairs
- October 25, 2019 - [Appeals court panel hears Lions Back arguments. Attorney: lower court decision a 'travesty of justice'](#). McMurdo, *Times Independent*.

- July 5, 2019 - [Court of Appeals to Hear Lions Back Case In Moab. McMurdo](#) , Times Independent.
 - [Click here](#) to read the announcement from the Utah Court of Appeals
 - The hearing is on October 18, 2019 and begins at 10:00 A.M. at the Grand County Courthouse.
-

05/08/2020

Utah Oil and Gas Regulators Fail to Issue Fines to Polluters

- [Click here](#) to read this story by Mark Richardson of Utah's Public News Service.
 - [Click here](#) to read this report by Center for Western Priorities (April, 2020)
-

04/20/2020

Plan calls for diverting, storing water from Gila River

Project website is here: <https://www.nmuniteis.com/documents>

Comments will be accepted through June 8.

By The Associated Press Friday, April 17, 2020 10:12 PM

SILVER CITY, N.M. – Water from two rivers that span parts of New Mexico and Arizona would be diverted and stored under a project proposed by the New Mexico Central Arizona Project Entity.

The proposal calls for storing water from the Gila and San Francisco rivers at sites in the Virden Valley or along the San Francisco River in New Mexico.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management [actually, Bureau of Reclamation] and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission are gathering public comments on an environmental review of the proposal.

The fight over the Gila River has prompted protests and legal fights over the years. Environmentalists have suggested the effort to divert water would result in a \$1 billion boondoggle, but supporters argue that the project is vital to supplying communities and irrigation districts in southwestern New Mexico with a new source of water as drought persists.

Under the Arizona Water Settlements Act, New Mexico is entitled to 14,000 acre-feet of water a year, or about 4.5 billion gallons. State officials opted to build a diversion

system, as that alternative opened the door to more federal funding. The state would have received less had it pursued other water projects in the region.

It missed a deadline in December to have an environmental review completed and approved by federal officials in order to free up additional funding. Still, the New Mexico Central Arizona Project Entity has more than \$60 million it could spend on a diversion and regional water projects.

The draft environmental review that's up for review now considers four alternatives to construct, operate and maintain the proposed project. Officials don't have a preferred alternative, saying it's likely a "no action" alternative will be selected until funding is secured.

"We need public feedback and encourage commenters to focus on the analysis of costs and benefits of the alternatives to make any future decisions," said Alexander Smith, the deputy area manager for the Bureau of Reclamation's Phoenix office.

Comments will be accepted through June 8.

04/18/20

Water authority won't appeal blocked Nevada pipeline project

By Alex Chhith / Las Vegas Review-Journal April 16, 2020 - 7:03 pm

The Southern Nevada Water Authority said Thursday it would not appeal a recent court ruling that blocked the agency's plans for a controversial eastern Nevada pipeline project.

In March, a District Court judge upheld a 2018 ruling to block the water authority's plans to pump billions of gallons of groundwater from four rural valleys in White Pine and Lincoln Counties. He also overturned older rulings from the state engineer who previously granted the water authority the right to pump out of Spring, Cave, Dry Lake and Delamar valleys.

In a statement, the authority said, "After the current pandemic passes and normal operations are restored, SNWA management will present an update to its 50-year Water Resources Plan for its Board of Directors to consider that focuses on strengthening beneficial partnerships with other Colorado River states as well as further advancing Southern Nevada's world-recognized water conservation efforts."

Organizations opposing the pipeline took the announcement as a win but said more work needs to be done.

“Great Basin residents can breathe a great sigh of relief,” Kyle Roerink, executive director of the Great Basin Water Network, said in a statement following the announcement. “Our attorneys, White Pine County officials, tribes and front-line communities have said this project was illegal for more than three decades. Today’s news vindicates their fierce opposition and years of fighting a David vs. Goliath battle. But SNWA must revoke its remaining water rights applications and withdraw its right-of-way application.”

Patrick Donnelly, the Nevada director for the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement that he with “thrilled” with the decision, calling the pipeline project a “boondoggle.”

“Eastern Nevada’s fragile ecosystems and rural communities have won a reprieve, but the fight isn’t over,” he said. “As long as permits are still alive, our struggle continues.”

Las Vegas water officials have been pushing plans to pipe in groundwater from up to 300 miles away since 1989. The proposed multibillion-dollar pipeline project was expected to supply at least 170,000 homes.

More news:

[Click here](#) to read this story by Daniel Rothberg on 5/22/20 for *The Nevada Independent* called "Water Authority Board Votes to Withdraw Remaining Water Right Applications Permits for Pipeline Project."

[Click here](#) to read this interview from *Nevada Public Radio* between Pat Mulroy and Abby Johnson called "Two Former Foes on the Death of a 'Water Grab.'"

04/17/2020

Kane County (Utah) Opts Out of Lake Powell Pipeline NEPA Process

FROM THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION SOURCE OF THE PIPELINE PROJECT
(Washington County Water Conservancy District)

At the request of the Kane County Water Conservancy District (KCWCD), the Bureau of Reclamation will not consider Kane County’s future water supply needs in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review of the Lake Powell Pipeline (LPP).

KCWCD’s decision to opt out of the NEPA process was made after further review of the county’s projected population growth and available water supply, which indicated the county did not currently have a foreseeable need for the water.

“We continue to support the Lake Powell Pipeline and consider it absolutely essential to the future of southwestern Utah,” said Mike Noel, general manager of KCWCD.

A similar review of Washington County’s projected population growth and available water supply deemed the project essential.

“Washington County is the fastest growing and one of the driest regions in Utah,” said Todd Adams, director of the Utah Division of Water Resources. “The county is projected to triple in the next 40 years and is currently dependent on a single river basin that is almost fully developed. A second, reliable water source is vital for Washington County’s growing population and economy.”

KCWCD was anticipated to receive up to 4,000 acre feet of water per year from the LPP, or approximately 5% of the project’s yield. The water rights for the 4,000 acre feet of water remain with the Utah Board of Water Resources. If the need arises, KCWCD can complete a separate NEPA process and connect to the LPP in the future.

KCWCD’s decision will eliminate an approximately 10-mile pipeline from the LPP into Kane County; no other project changes are needed. The project’s timeline and process are unaltered. Reclamation’s work on the Environmental Impact Statement is ongoing with a draft anticipated for public review and comment this summer.

FROM LEXI PEERY OF THE ST. GEORGE SPECTRUM
Kane County pulls out of Lake Powell Pipeline project ahead of federal review

The Kane County Water Conservancy District has decided to pull out of the Lake Powell Pipeline project, leaving Washington County as the sole proposed user of the pipeline going forward.

The decision comes as the federal government continues and environmental review of the project. The Bureau of Reclamation is developing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. The NEPA process will determine if the project will go forward and what route it will take.

This one-year review process began in December 2019 and a decision on the pipeline is expected in early 2021. Over 1,000 public scoping comments were submitted until the beginning of January in preparation for the draft EIS, which is expected this summer.

KCWCD made the decision based on “further review” of the county’s population projections and available water, according to the press release announcing the news.

“We continue to support the Lake Powell Pipeline and consider it absolutely essential to the future of southwestern Utah,” Mike Noel, the general manager of KCWCD, said in the release.

Population projections for the state are developed by the University of Utah's Kem C.

Gardner Policy Institute. The latest projections have Kane County growing by more than 50% by 2065, which would put it at about 11,400 people.

“KCWCD’s decision was made after reviewing the population projections and currently available water supply. Kane County is fortunate to have local water resources that they can develop to meet its currently projected growth. If Kane County grows more than currently projected, KCWCD has the option to complete the necessary NEPA and connect to the LPP in the future,” WCWCD spokesperson Karry Rathje stated.

The environmental work for the project began in 2007, and at the time Iron County was part of it. In 2012, the county’s water district decided to leave the project, finding their current water sources would be sustainable for the future.

The plans for the 140-mile pipeline are unchanged, except for a 10-mile pipeline that would have diverted water from the LPP to Kane County. Rathje stated the pipeline to Kane County was estimated to cost \$35 million.

The latest estimated cost of the project is between \$1.1 and \$1.8 billion. The project would be repaid by impact fees, water rates and property taxes, according to the LPP project website.

The pipeline would bring 86,000 acre-feet annually to the region from Lake Powell. KCWCD would have received about 5% of the project’s total or 4,000-acre feet. The water rights that would have been held by KCWCD would now be held by the Utah Board of Water Resources, according to the release.

The WCWCD has done similar population reviews and found the pipeline to be essential given the expected increase in population, according to the release. The larger county, where the St. George metro area makes up most of the population, is forecasted to grow to more than 500,000 people by 2065.

“Washington County is the fastest growing and one of the driest regions in Utah,” said Todd Adams, director of the Utah Division of Water Resources, in the release. “The county is projected to triple in the next 40 years and is currently dependent on a single river basin that is almost fully developed. A second, reliable water source is vital for Washington County’s growing population and economy.”

FROM BRIAN MAFFLY OF THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Kane County Utah does an about-face, pulls out of Lake Powell pipeline project

For the past decade, Kane County leaders have argued that their southern Utah community will need water piped from the Colorado River to meet future needs, but the local water district abruptly announced Thursday it was pulling out of the costly Lake Powell pipeline project, leaving Washington County as the only remaining recipient of the water.

The controversial project would divert 86,000 acre-feet of water a year from the chronically depleted Lake Powell into a 143-mile pipeline terminating in a reservoir near St. George. Along the way, the billion-dollar pipeline was to offload 4,000 acre-feet in Johnson Canyon east of Kanab.

But now the Kane County Water Conservancy District has decided it didn't have a "foreseeable need" for the water after reviewing the county's projected population growth and available water resources, according to a release posted Thursday.

"We continue to support the Lake Powell pipeline and consider it absolutely essential to the future of southwestern Utah," said Mike Noel, the district's general manager and the retired Kanab state lawmaker who has long championed the project.

Zach Frankel, executive director of the Utah Rivers Council, and other critics have long pointed to Kane County's ample groundwater supplies as evidence that there was not much need for the project, which would be financed by Utah taxpayers and tap an already over-allocated Colorado River. More than \$25 million has been spent on environmental reviews, with a new one underway by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which assumed federal oversight of the project after the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission withdrew.

Kane's pullout eliminates the need to construct a 10-mile pipe to direct the county's share of the water to a spot hardly a mile from Noel's extensive ranch properties in Johnson Canyon.

The project has shrunk substantially from its original version, first unveiled in 2006 legislation. Last year, the Utah Division of Water Resources removed the hydroelectric generation components, which would have enlarged the project's costs and environmental footprint. Iron County, another original participant, exited years ago, citing the high cost of delivering the water all the way to Cedar City.

But state officials, pointing to the mushrooming growth in and around St. George, maintained there is still a need for the pipeline.

"Washington County is the fastest growing and one of the driest regions in Utah," said Todd Adams, director of the Utah Division of Water Resources. "The county is projected to triple in the next 40 years and is currently dependent on a single river basin that is almost fully developed. A second, reliable water source is vital for Washington County's growing population and economy."

The project's timeline and process remain unaltered. The Bureau of Reclamation's review is ongoing with a draft environmental impact statement anticipated for public comment this summer.

FROM UTAH RIVERS COUNCIL

Good News: Kane County Backs Out of Lake Powell Pipeline Fiasco

2nd of 3 Utah Counties Have Now Backed Out of Destructive, Unnecessary, Expensive Lake Powell Pipeline

As a glimmer of good news during uncertain times, Utah water agencies announced today that the Kane County Water District is backing out of the proposed \$3 billion Lake Powell Pipeline.

For the last 14 years, the Kane County Water District, claimed that Kane County needed water from the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline. The Kane County Water District is a small water supplier that delivers water to a very small percentage of Kane County's population. Led by former Utah legislator Mike Noel, the water agency was widely criticized for failing to prove its claims for needing the water or coming up with a viable plan to pay for the water.

In 2013, a group of Utah economists performed a lengthy analysis of Pipeline repayment obligations on Kane County residents and found that massive increases to water rates, impact fees and property taxes would be required to pay for the water. The Utah Division of Water Resources and the Kane County Water District claimed they could repay Pipeline costs but provided no substance to their claims.

Then in March 2018, the Utah Rivers Council filed a complaint with the Utah Attorney General's Office seeking an investigation of Rep Noel and what role the Utah Division of Water Resources had in changing the official documents for the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline. Our complaint requested a formal investigation to determine if Mr. Noel used government resources to benefit his own private land holdings. The complaint alleges that Mr. Noel may have used his position as both a legislator and as the Executive Director of the Kane County Water District to advance the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline, which might have delivered water to his land holdings in Kane County, estimated to be valued at roughly \$4-9 million.

The map below shows Mr. Noel's personal properties and the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline alignment, as shown in yellow. Roughly 10 miles before the Pipeline reached Kane County's largest town of Kanab, the Pipeline was slated to make a 90 degree corner and head ~7 miles up Johnson Canyon road, where project documents state the entire Pipeline water supply would be pumped into the ground, just a stone's throw from Mr. Noel's properties.

Roughly 10 miles before the Pipeline reached Kane County's largest town of Kanab, the Pipeline was slated to make a 90 degree corner and head ~7 miles up Johnson Canyon road, where project documents state the entire Pipeline water supply would be pumped into the ground, just a stone's throw from Mr. Noel's properties.

The Division of Water Resources has never responded to why the agency revised the

official Lake Powell Pipeline planning documents to alter the alignment of the Pipeline to travel towards Mr Noel's land holdings.

“Kane County residents dodged the bullet on this costly water project” said Zach Frankel, Executive Director of the Utah Rivers Council. “Too bad Washington County residents are still stuck paying a 500% increase in water rates and a doubling of property taxes for water they don't need and \$3 billion in debt they can't repay” said Frankel.

The Utah Division of Water Resources continues to claim that Washington County needs water from the \$3 billion Pipeline, but its justification for the project is based on bogus water demand projections. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Powell Pipeline is slated to be released in June 2020 by the Bureau of Reclamation.

03/23/2020

Lisbon Valley Mining Company Closes: Lays Off Workers and Owes Back Payroll and Property Taxes

- [Click here](#) to read this story by *The San Juan Record*.
 - [Click here](#) to read this story by Zak Podmore of *The Salt Lake Tribune*
 - [Click here](#) to read this Emergency Order by Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining about the Lisbon Valley Copper Mine Closure.
 - [Click here](#) to read this story by Zak Podmore of *The Salt Lake Tribune*, about the then proposed expansion of this copper mine in January of 2020.
 - [Click here](#) to read a fact sheet prepared by Uranium Watch about the expansion of Lisbon Valley Copper Mine.
 - [Click here](#) to read about the 2018 Public Meeting for the expansion of the Lisbon Valley Copper Mine.
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03/10/20

Judge Again Rejects Las Vegas Water Pipeline from Rural Valleys

- [Click here](#) to read this story by Ken Ritter of *Associated Press*
 - [Click here](#) to read about this victory by Great Basin Water Network
-

03/10/2020

Tribal Water Initiative: 'This System Cannot be Sustained'

- [Click here](#) to read this story by Anna V. Smith of *High Country News*
 - [Click here](#) to read this story by Ian James of *Arizona Republic*
 - [2018 - Tribal Water Study of the Ten-Tribe Partnership](#) (documents combined and starting with the press release). This study is a new feature of the 2012 Basin Study.
 - [2018 - Water and Tribes Initiative of the Colorado River Basin](#). Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy. University of Montana at Missoula.
-

03/07/20

Pumpback Project Dam Would Create 10-Mile Finger Lake on San Francisco River (Gila River)

- [Click here](#) to read this story by Geoffry Plant of *Silver City Daily Press*
 - [Go to "Docket Search" at FERC Online](#)
 - Project Number: P-14995
 - [Click here](#) to read all the reports as of March 7, 2020.
-

03/04/2020

The Colorado River Past and Future: How Will the States Manage a Drier Future

- [Click here](#) to read this story by Rachel Fixson of *Moab Sun News*
 - [Website for The Center for Colorado River Studies](#)
-

02/29/2020

Lion's Back Resort: Moab City Seeks Help From Utah Supreme Court

[Click here](#) to read this story by Doug McMurdo in *The Times-Independent*

02/21/2020

7D REVIEW BY DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Memo (2/7/20) from Bureau of Reclamation about the Section 7.D review of Interim Guidelines, now underway until December of 2020. In his 12/13/2019 remarks at Annual Conference of Colorado River Water Users Association ([video](#)), Interior Secretary Bernhardt stated:

- 'Section 7.D of the 2007 Guidelines [the update of 12/10/2007, listed below] calls for Reclamation to initiate work prior to Dec. 31, 2020 on a formal review of the effectiveness of the 2007 Guidelines.'
- 'This provision provides an opportunity to take an objective look at where we've been, and where we are, with our operational rules.'
- 'We want to wrap up this effort, culminating in the 'Section 7.D Report,' around this time next year.'
- 'The report will be a Reclamation product but it will rely on important input from the Basin States, Tribes, NGOs and the public, as the report is developed.'

7D DOCUMENTS

- [Updated Draft Guidelines of December 10, 2007; Section 7 only](#) - (pages 34-36)
- [2007 Record of Decision of December 13, 2007](#)
- [2007 Final EIS \(October\)](#)

Approach

- The Section 7.D Review will be retrospective; a '**look-back**' at past operations and not a consideration of future activities.
- The Review will result in a Report that: 1) evaluates the effectiveness of the Guidelines and 2) documents our operational experience with the Guidelines.
- Through this Review, we hope to build a solid foundation that informs decision-makers in future negotiations and bring partners, stakeholders and the public to a common understanding of past operations and their effectiveness.
- Input from the Basin States, Tribes, NGOs, other Federal agencies, and the public will be factored into the Review.
- Outreach with Basin States, Tribes, NGOs, and other Federal agencies will occur at 2 primary milestones: 1) at the start of the Review, with a discussion of the Report scope, approach, and schedule and 2) when the draft Report is ready for review.
- In March, we anticipate holding webinar(s) to present and discuss the Report scope, approach, and schedule with the Basin States, Tribes, and NGOs. Additional meetings with groups of tribes and individual tribes will follow as requested.
- In late summer, we anticipate holding webinar(s) to provide the draft Report to the Basin States, Tribes, and NGOs for review. Received comments will be considered and factored into the draft Report as appropriate. Additional meetings with groups of tribes and individual tribes will follow as requested.
- We anticipate publishing the final Report near the end of 2020.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF 7D REVIEW

- **Public Webinar:** posted at <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/strategies.html>
- **Draft Comments:** due May 1, 2020. However, this is not a hard deadline due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Send comments to:** 7DReview@usbr.gov

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02/20/2020

Uinta Railway/Inland Port: Utah Coalition to Protest Misuse of Public Money on Fossil Fuel Projects

[Click here](#) to read this Press Release from Center for Biological Diversity

02/16/2020

How Climate Change Is Redesigning Canyonlands National Park

[Click here](#) to read this story by Patrick Cone for *National Parks Traveler*

[Archived here](#)

Climate Change at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

[Click here](#) to read this story by Patrick Cone for *National Parks Traveler*

[Archived here](#)

02/07/2020

Lion's Back Deal Violated Moab Law: Judge Rules SITLA & City Council Contract Can't Avert Public Hearings

[Click here](#) to read this story by Doug McMurdo of *Moab Times Independent*

[Click here](#) to read this story by Maggie McQuire of *Moab Sun News*

Part One: [Click here](#) to listen to Molly Marcello and the attorneys on KZMU Radio: News and Public Affairs

Part Two: [Click here](#) to listen to Molly Marcello and Doug McMurdo on KZMU Radio: News and Public Affairs

01/22/2020

We know the earth is warming. We know that will stress water in the West. But we don't know how.

[Click here](#) to read this story by Mark Jaffe of *Colorado Sun News*

[Click here](#) to read this story from *Science Daily* called "Sea level rise could reshape the United States, trigger migration inland"

01/10/2020

Divisive Southern Utah Sand Mine Project Will Not Move Forward

[Click here](#) to read this story by David Fuchs of *KUER Radio*

PREVIOUS NEWS

By *Southern Utah News*

<https://www.sunews.net/article.cfm?articleID=2685>

To view the proceedings for the water rights of this mining project, [CLICK HERE](#)

Keep Kanab Unspoiled (KKU), a community-based group that was formed to protect the quality of life in Kanab, a historic western town in southern Utah, filed a protest last week to the city's application to divert water for a frac sand mine and processing plant. There were more than 30 protests filed, including from ranchers worried about their future access to water, as well as Kanab Irrigation Company and Best Friends Animal Society.

The request for the water diversion stems from a contract the City of Kanab signed this summer with Southern Red Sands (SRS), a start-up mining operation backed by Kem Gardner, a Salt Lake City developer. SRS has mining claims on more than 11,000 acres of land on the plateau just above Kanab, just over 10 miles from Zion National Park. Its claims on this scenic plateau go up to tourist attractions like Peekaboo slot canyon and Diana's Throne, as well as the boundaries of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary.

The City of Kanab agreed to sell up to 600 acre-feet of water annually for 20 years, with SRS having the option for three 10-year renewals. SRS has also contracted with the Kane County Water Conservancy District for the same amount of water.

Dean Baker, a member of Keep Kanab Unspoiled, commented, "This frac sand mine threatens the future of Kanab, most immediately by taking away the water we need, but also by ruining an environmental treasure."

The protest was filed with the Utah State Water Engineer, listing a variety of reasons, most importantly that the City of Kanab does not have a surplus of water to sell. Utah state law, as well as the state constitution, prohibits the city from selling water outside its boundaries unless it has a surplus.

Kanab has been widely projected to face water shortfalls in coming decades, as continued growth puts a strain on its water supply. This projected shortfall is the reason many officials in the area have supported the construction of the Lake Powell Pipeline as a future source of water.

The projection of a shortfall was also confirmed in a newly released study commissioned by Best Friends Animal Society, by Dr. Kenneth Kolm. The study projected that if SRS uses all the water contracted, it could cause several lakes and streams in the area to dry up, in addition to reducing the flow of water from the wells owned by Best Friends and the City of Kanab.

The protest was filed by Steven Clyde of Clyde-Snow Law firm in Salt Lake City.

###

[Click here](#) to read this story called "Kane County Residents Worry: Proposed Frac Sand Mine May Jeopardize Aquifer" by *KUER Radio*

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Additional Information

[Protest by Best Friends with Exhibits.](#)

[Kanab City Water Plan, 2018.](#)

[Summary of Spring Flow Decline Local Hydrogeologic Studies at Pipe Spring National Monument, 2007. NPS.](#)

01/10/2020

Living Rivers Scoping Letter for Lake Powell Pipeline

LIVING RIVERS ET AL: Submissions to the Public Scoping Process

- [Coalition Letter submitted to Reclamation](#)

Submitted References

- [LR References Section 1A](#)
- [LR References Section 3A](#)
- [LR References Section 3B](#)
- [LR References Section 3C](#)
- [LR References Section3D](#)
- [LR References Section 3E](#)
- [LR References Section 3F](#)
- [LR References Section 3G](#)
- [LR References Section 3I](#)
- [LR References Section 3J](#)
- [LR References Section 3K](#)
- [LR References Section 3L](#)
- [LR References Section 3L Part 1](#)
- [LR References Section 3L Part 2](#)
- [LR References Section 3L Part 3](#)
- [LR References Section 3L Part4](#)
- [LR References Section 3L Part 5](#)
- [LR References Section 3L Part 6](#)
- [LR References Section 3L Part 7](#)
- [LR References Section 3L Part 8](#)
- [LR References Section 3L Part 9](#)
- [LR References Section 3L Part 10](#)
- [LR References Section 3L Part 11](#)
- [LR References Section 3L Part 12](#)
- [LR References Section 3L Part 13](#)
- [LR References Section 3O](#)
- [LR References Section 3P](#)
- [LR References Section 3Q](#)
- [LR Appendix A](#)

ON THE COLORADO

Articles about the Lake Powell Pipeline

- September 23, 2019: [The Administrative History of Lake Powell Pipeline](#)
- October 22, 2018 - [The Water Rights of Central Utah Project, including Ultimate Phase](#)

- September 18, 2018 - [Green River Block Environmental Assessment for a Federal Water Contract for Eastern Utah Counties](#)
 - August 22, 2018- [Lake Powell Pipeline Permitting Process Renewed](#)
 - June 28, 2018 - [Proposal to amend the Arizona Strip Resource Management Plan \(RMP\)](#)
 - December 26, 2017 - [Lake Powell Pipeline Approved for Environmental Analysis \(Temporarily Suspended\)](#)
 - March 21, 2011 - [Lake Powell Pipeline Documents](#)
 - June 03, 2010 - [Ultimate Phase Water Rights Stored at Flaming Gorge Reservoir](#)
 - May 06, 2008 - [Announcing: Scoping of environmental issues for the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline Project in Utah and Arizona](#)
-

01/08/2020

Lake Powell Pipeline: Desert Pipeline Tests Colorado Rivers Future

[Click here](#) to read this story by Jahn Wang of *S & P Global Markets*

01/08/2020

Utah Water Managers Retire

- [Click here](#) to read this story by Lexi Perry of *The Spectrum*
 - [Click here](#) to read this story by *The Daily Herald*
 - [Click here](#) to read this story by Becky Ginos of *The Davis Clipper*
-

01/03/2020

BLM's controversial chief: Pendley's tenure extended again without nomination, despite protests

- [Click here](#) to read this article by Judy Fahys in *Inside Climate News*
 - [Click here](#) to read this story by Maggie McQuire of *Moab Sun News*
 - [Click here](#) to read this story by Rebecca Leber of *High Country News* called "Pay to Play: Interior Secretary's Old Clients Spend Big Profit Bigly."
-