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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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March 11, 2011

Honorable Kimberly Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Subject: Lake Powell Hydroelectric Project No. P-12966-001: Initial Study Report

Dear Secretary Bose:

This letter is submitted in accordance with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) letter of February 4, 2011 granting the request of the Utah Division of Water Resources an extension of time for submitting the Initial Study Report until March 11, 2011. The Utah Division of Water Resources (Applicant) by this letter is submitting 22 of the 23 Draft Study Reports to the Commission for the Lake Powell Hydroelectric Project No. 12966 for Commission review under the Integrated Licensing Process.

The Utah Board of Water Resources (UBWR) will hold two initial study report meetings to discuss the draft study report results, one on March 22, 2011 in St. George, Utah and another on March 23, 2011 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Disks containing copies of the Draft Study Reports will be available at both meetings.

The following Draft Study Reports are being submitted for filing with the Commission:

1. Air Quality
2. Aquatic Resources
3. Archaeological and Historical-Era Resources (filed with the Commission on May 20, 2010 and an Addendum Report filed with the Commission on December 21, 2010, both filed as non-public files)
4. Geology and Soil Resources
5. Groundwater Resources
6. Land Use Plans and Conflicts
7. Noise
8. Paleontological Resources
9. Recreation Resources
10. Socioeconomics and Water Resource Economics
11. Special Status Aquatic Resource Species and Habitats
12. Special Status Plant Species and Noxious Weeds Assessment
13. Special Status Wildlife Species



Page 2

March 13, 2011

Subject: Lake Powell Hydroelectric Project No. P-12966-001: Initial Study Report

14. Transportation
15. Vegetative Community Mapping
16. Visual Resources
17. Surface Water Quality
18. Surface Water Resources
19. Water Supply and Climate Change
20. Wetlands and Riparian Resources
21. Wildlife Resources
22. Alternatives Development
23. Ethnographic Resources (to be submitted in July 2011)

Please note that the Archaeological and Historic-Era Resources Report was filed with the Commission on May 20, 2010 as a non-public file, and an Addendum to the Archaeological and Historic-Era Resources Report was filed with the Commission on December 21, 2010 as a non-public file. The Draft Ethnographic Resources Study Report completion has been delayed until July 2011.

Four of the ongoing studies will be modified to include additional field work and impact analysis of a proposed single-purpose natural gas pipeline to the booster pump stations as an alternative to electrical transmission lines. Natural gas-powered generators would be located at each booster pump station to power the water pumps. The natural gas pipeline alternative would be constructed within the Lake Powell Pipeline study area documented in the Draft Study Reports. The following four studies will be modified: 1) Air Quality; 2) Noise; 3) Socioeconomics and Water Resource Economics; and 4) Visual Resources.

We appreciate your patience in allowing us to complete these Draft Study Reports. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Eric Millis, Deputy Director, Utah Division of Water Resources, at 801-538-7298.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Strong, P.E.
Director

DJS/bdl

Enclosure

cc: Jim Fargo, Commission