



Written Comment Form

Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

We want your comments! If you have any issues, concerns, or questions related to the Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project Draft EIS, please complete and submit this comment form. Fold the comment sheet on the lines with the return address showing, and deposit it in the comment box before you leave, or tape it closed, affix postage, and mail at your convenience. You may include additional pages. Please check the project website (<http://www.BLM.gov/5w5c>) for the comment period closing date (October, 11, 2011).

Please note: Anonymous comments will not be considered.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) - Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address or any other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under FOIA rules, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments or check the box below.

Please withhold my name/address from public review if possible.

What about this environmental analysis are you specifically concerned about?

Draw Down of Available Water
in the affected Counties

What is missing from this environmental document?

Justification for Project

What other comments or questions do you have?

Please explain the justification for the removal & possible irreversible effects of that to supply a county that only contributes gambling to the state. It would be easier to understand if it was for ag. purposes, but to solely support a gaming meca is criminal.

Please correct/modify my contact information (provide the correct information on the opposite page).

Thank you for your interest and participation!

BLM Written Comment Form - extension sheet:

- A). It seems to be a bias political based date and model that may not be accurate. The effects on residents, wildlife, environment, livestock and resources are greatly under estimated.
- B). The long term effects this entire project will have on quality of life for current and future dependents of involved lands and resourses.
- C). If the BLM performs their official function in a fiduciary manner, there will be no chance of them approving this ground water development project.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND VIEWS:

- 1). I feel a 90 day comment period is only fair considering it took 6 years to prepare this DEIS.
- 2). I strongly feel the "No Actions Alternative" which is the only one that conforms to the BLM's commission to sustain the health, diversity and welfare of the public lands for current and future generations.
- 3). It is the BLM's duty not to approve a project that will impose harmful irreversible impacts on public land and resources. I feel a supplemental EIS that addresses impacts from specific well locations such as the Lincoln County well sites is required.
- 4). This DEIS fails to disclose project costs and/or sources of funding. Nor does is address the cost of funding this project.
- 5). I feel this DEIS does not fully address the purpose and need for this project.
- 6). Because of the large number of unknowns and remaining questions, the BLM should delay any decisions on granting approval of this pipeline.

LISTED BELOW ARE A NUMBER OF REQUIREMENTS I FEEL DEIS NECESSARY BEFORE ANY PERMIT IS GRANTED.

- a). Analyze any environmental effects due to climate change.
- b). Analyze environmental impact of actual well locations. Such as draw down effects on existing springs in Pharaganut Valley with accurate science.
- c). A hard look should be given at indirect and cumulative impacts including future local development.
- d). Provide sufficient information on impacts to Hiko, Crystal and Ash Springs as well as the endangered species there.

- e). Provide sufficient information on impacts for Steptoe Valley.
- f). Adequately analyze adverse impacts and militations for ranching, wildlife habitat, wild horses, local businesses and other uses such as hunting and recreation camping, hiking etc.
- g). This DEIS provides insufficient justification for failing to study draw downs and impacts only to 200 years after building when in fact the SNWA Pipeline Project is intended to operate indefinitely .
- h). What monetary gain will Senator Harry Reed, his family and business associates receive from this pipeline and water resources associated with it? There seems to be a conflict of interest.

IN SUMMARY:

I strongly protest this DEIS and any action by the BLM to issue a permit. It would be a breach of their management duties.

RECEIVED
OCT - 7 2011
BLM NVSO IAC

From the heart of the Great Basin Water Network

Here are some topics to help you comment on the DEIS. As residents and friends of the Great Basin, you know your community, the land and its resources. It is best to connect your comments to the DEIS, by page, section, or topic. **Everyone: please include the RED statements** along with the topics you choose. Thanks!

- Request a 90 day extension** on the DEIS comment period. It's only fair; they had 6 years to prepare.
- Tell BLM you support the No Action alternative**, which is the only one that conforms to BLM's mission: "to sustain the health diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations." **BLM should not approve a project that will impose harmful irreversible and irretrievable impacts on public lands and resources.**
- Demand a Supplemental EIS** that addresses impacts from specific well locations.
- DEIS fails to disclose project costs** and sources and cost of funding.
- DEIS fails to adequately assess the purpose and need for project.**
- Ask BLM to delay decisions because of large number of "unknowns" and "uncertainties"** (no SNWA water rights, no well-site locations, no NV/UT shared water agreement...)
- DEIS fails to analyze potential environmental effects due to climate change**
- All of the action alternatives will result in future efforts by SNWA to fill the 96 inch pipe with water from Snake Valley, the rest of White Pine County, Eureka County, Elko County and beyond.**
- Approval of any alternative other than the "No Action" alternative would conflict with the BLM's duties under NEPA and FLPMA.**
- DEIS fails to analyze environmental impacts of actual well locations for "distributed pumping"**
- Predicted massive land subsidence area of 5 ft. + is an unacceptable irreversible impact of unlawful groundwater mining.**
- DEIS projects unacceptable adverse impacts on hundreds of existing surface and groundwater rights.**
- DEIS does not consider a sufficient range of alternatives.**
- DEIS provides inadequate analysis of socioeconomic impacts but still shows that impacts will put ranchers out of business and depopulate rural areas.**
- DEIS has inadequate, ineffective or missing mitigation measures.**
- DEIS inadequately analyzes impacts to sacred sites, cultural resources of American Indian Tribes.**
- DEIS fails to take a hard look at indirect & cumulative impacts, including future local development.**
- Proposed action would lead to major loss of game species; extinction of rare plant & animal species.**
- DEIS provides insufficient information on impacts to Fish Springs NWR and Deep Creek Valley.**
- DEIS provides insufficient information on impacts to Steptoe Valley.**
- DEIS fails to adequately analyze adverse impacts on and mitigation for** ranching wildlife habitat local businesses wild horses Other _____.
- DEIS provides insufficient justification for failing to study drawdowns of less than 10 feet and impacts only to 200 years after build-out when the SNWA Pipeline project is intended to operate indefinitely.**
- Let BLM and SNWA know you oppose this risky and expensive scheme to mine water in the Great Basin.**

Your comments here: Include name & address, and mail to BLM at mailing address on page 1. Deadline is Sept. 9.
BLM: Please address comments checked above. Here are some more comments:

If the BLM is to uphold its public trust to care for the public lands. Then please choose "No Action Alternative" and Deny the "Right of way" request.

REC'D - BLM - NSO

AUG 12 2011

9:00 A.M.

Access more details and a sample comment letter: <http://greatbasinwater.net/pubs/cmt2011-1.doc>

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PLEASE CHOOSE "TAKE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE" and deny the "right of way" request.

REC'D - BLM - NSO

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AUG 22 2011

GROUNDWATER PROJECTS OFFICE
BLM NEVADA

*I Concur with his Commentary
Please to Consider it!*

KTSN 1340

OPINIONS

Draining Northern Nevada For More Houses In Vegas?

COMMENTARY
By THOMAS MITCHELL
Contributing Editor

PIOCHE, Nevada — Which is the more beneficial use for water? Growing Bermuda grass for a beautiful backyard lawn in suburban Las Vegas or irrigating acres of alfalfa in Lincoln County to feed cattle?

You could sell the water to the highest bidder on the open market, but that somehow goes against the grain of the average American's sense of fairness, even morality.

Economist Thomas Sowell, in his book "Basic Economics," notes, "The idea persists in many places that decisions made through the market are not as moral as decisions made through the political process. Writers for the San Francisco Chronicle referred to 'how amoral the marketplace can be' when explaining why the water supply owned by the city of Stockton, California, could not be entrusted to private enterprise. 'Water is too life-sustaining a commodity to go into the marketplace...'"

So is food, Sowell reasons, but it is somehow supplied through amoral private enterprise.

By Nevada law, water within the state's boundaries belongs to the public and is allocated for "beneficial use" by the state engineer. The owner of a water right doesn't actually own the water, but merely the right to use the public's water.

Because of this, a lengthy series of hearings are being held this month by the Bureau of Land Management and next month by the state engineer to determine whether the Southern Nevada Water Authority, which supplies potable water to much of metropolitan Las Vegas, may build up to 300 miles of pipeline down the eastern portion of the state to carry water from underground aquifers in valleys in White Pine and Lincoln counties. The project proposes pumping as much as 176,000 acre-feet per year from Snake, Spring, Cave, Delamar and Dry Lake valleys.

The question is: How would this affect the water table in those valleys and, in turn, the ecology, wildlife, hunting and fishing, natural springs, cattle grazing, agriculture and the people who have lived for generations in those valleys? Without the water, how would the once-buzzing economy of Las Vegas be affected?

The first of the BLM hearings on this topic took place this past week in Pioche. Dozens of people showed up to pore over the maps and graphics and booklets and computerized video, and six chose to testify — all expressing trepidation about the impact the project

could potentially have on northern counties.

Lincoln County Commission Chairman George T. Rowe minced no words. "I think that this pipeline will be the ruination of the northern counties being affected. I think that you cannot run a pipeline through an area without messing up all of the feed for the cattle — the white sage that grows in the flat lands and the valleys," he said.

Connie Simkins, a 67-year resident of Panaca, offered a practical, real-world analogy for what could happen if SNWA is allowed to pump water out of the valleys. She remarked that she has a small plot of land that in the spring is too wet to work with her tractor, but as soon as the nearby farmers start irrigating their fields the pasture dries up and she has to haul water to her cattle. As soon as the pumps are turned off in September the water table comes back up.

Fifth generation rancher Kenna Lytle Gloeckner who grazes cattle in Dry Lake Valley testified that for five months of the year, November through April, more than 1,500 head of cattle thrive on that land. She argued that a BLM statement that livestocking rates would not be affected is simply wrong.

She said the white sage in several of the valleys represents some of the best winter grazing for cattle and sheep. "When disturbed the sensitive plant is completely destroyed and almost impossible to re-establish," she said.

Even more disturbing, Gloeckner said, is when the draw down of the water table takes place the soil is easily eroded. "After any disturbance of the surface crust, it easily becomes airborne and the area is prone to many dust storms and the soil type becomes even more troublesome when disturbed by any kind of travel," she said.

Gloeckner argued the pipeline could destroy the ranchers' lifestyle and heritage.

The Solomonic task being undertaken by the BLM and the state engineer must weigh the relative merits of the rural vs. urban thirst and contributions each makes to the overall economic well-being of the state of Nevada. This will take years of hearings and volumes of reports and analyses.

We could eliminate this wasted time and money by selling water on the open market and letting the "invisible hand" quickly and efficiently balance supply and demand. But that might be amoral.

Thomas Mitchell is a long-time Nevadan. You may share your views with him by emailing thomasmnv@yahoo.com. Read additional musings on his blog at <http://4thst8.wordpress.com/>

BLM Grants More Time To Comment On Vegas Pipeline Plan

*60 more days certainly won't hurt!
Opponents want additional sixty days*

The Nevada Office of the Bureau of Land Management will allow more time to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project, moving the comment deadline back from September 9 to October 11.

"We appreciate the BLM being responsive to the many requests they received from organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens," said Rob Mrowka, spokesman for the Great Basin Water Network (GBWN). "However, we reiterate that BLM should extend the comment period the full ninety days as we requested previously in order to consider the highly relevant information that will emerge during the State Engineer's hearing in the fall on the SNWA water applications in Spring, Cave, Dry Lake, and Delamar Valleys," he said.

GBWN, the coalition of ranchers, rural residents, conservationists, Tribes, and local governments leading the opposition to the project, has published a "DEIS Guide" to inform the public how to participate in the public process. The Guide highlights the potential impacts of the multi-billion dollar pipeline proposal that the BLM has identified, and critiques the flaws in the BLM's analysis.

"We hope people will turn out in large numbers at the DEIS hearings August 2nd through August 18th, and we hope the guide will be a useful tool for folks to use at the hearings and as they prepare their comments," Mrowka said. The DEIS Guide is available on the GBWN website www.greatbasinwater.net.

Citizens may request a hard copy of the DEIS Executive Summary and compact disks of the full DEIS by mail at Bureau of Land Management/Groundwater Projects Office/ P.O. Box 12000/Reno, NV 89520-0006 or by emailing nvgwprojects@blm.gov. The report also can be accessed at www.blm.gov/5w5c.

Dow, Kimberly D

From: BLM_NV_NVSO_Web_Mail
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 12:55 PM
To: Dow, Kimberly D
Subject: FW: Internet Inquiry

-----Original Message-----

From: BLM_WO_Information [mailto:BLM_WO_Information@blm.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2011 12:40 PM
To: nvsoweb@nv.blm.gov
Subject: FW: Internet Inquiry

FYI...

-----Original Message-----

From: cq@blm.gov [mailto:cq@blm.gov]
Sent: Saturday, October 08, 2011 3:36 PM
To: BLM_WO_Information
Subject: Internet Inquiry

Name0 = (0: '')

EmailAddress = (0: 'afolstad@yahoo.com') TypeofContact = (0: 'Other') Message = (0: 'I do not have any scientific credentials, but I have lived in Las Vegas over 50 years and have observed the system at work. Please do not allow LV to take water from the northern counties. The power brokers never suffer defeat at the hands of our local legislators. Pat Mulroy appears to me to be a scary bully who always gets her way. It is morally wrong for LV to take the water. The often-touted need to continue growing should be ignored. Not all cities need to continually get bigger and LV is one of those cities that shouldn't. Please don't knuckle under to pressure from the LV Water District.')