



CREDA

Colorado River Energy Distributors Association

ARIZONA

Arizona Municipal Power Users Association

Arizona Power Authority

Arizona Power Pooling Association

Irrigation and Electrical Districts Association

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority
(also New Mexico, Utah)

Salt River Project

COLORADO

Colorado Springs Utilities

Intermountain Rural Electric Association

Platte River Power Authority

Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Inc.
(also Nebraska, Wyoming, New Mexico)

Yampa Valley Electric Association, Inc.

NEVADA

Colorado River Commission of Nevada

Silver State Power Association

NEW MEXICO

Farmington Electric Utility System

Los Alamos County

City of Truth or Consequences

UTAH

City of Provo

City of St. George

South Utah Valley Electric Service District

Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems

Utah Municipal Power Agency

WYOMING

Wyoming Municipal Power Agency

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July 15, 2009

The Honorable Jon Kyl
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kyl:

On behalf of the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association (CREDA), I am writing to alert you to our serious concerns about recommendations relating to operations of the Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River that were included in the committee report on H.R. 3183, the FY 2010 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill. That language says:

Glen Canyon Dam. The Committee continues to support the goals of the Grand Canyon Protection Act (GCPA) and the resulting duties placed upon the Bureau of Reclamation. However, the Committee is concerned that many of the procedural requirements in the GCPA and Charter for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group are being disregarded. The result appears to be that Federal responsibilities have been neglected and public transparency compromised. Specifically, the Committee strongly encourages that the Bureau of Reclamation, in cooperation and concurrence with the National Park Service, revisit the Operating Criteria for Glen Canyon Dam. The five-year review required by the Operating Criteria should be an open public process consistent with the GCPA and 1997 Operating Criteria requirements (62 FR 9447-9448).

As you know, CREDA is a member of the 26 person Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG), the federal advisory committee that includes representatives of multiple federal agencies, the Colorado River Basin States, tribes, recreation interests, power customers and environmental organizations that was authorized in the Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992 to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior relative to the operation of Glen Canyon Dam and the exercise of other authorities under existing law. The Secretary of Interior has been mandated to operate the dam and regulate the river in such a manner as to meet the many and varied statutory goals mandated by Congress. The AMWG makes it possible for the Secretary to bring all these varied interests to a consensus on how to protect downstream resources and strike a wise balance on river operations.

CREDA continues to support the AMWG collaborative stakeholder process and is also supportive of having the Bureau of Reclamation fulfill its reporting requirements with regard to the Operating Criteria for Glen Canyon Dam. However, CREDA does not agree with the assertion in the report language that "federal responsibilities have been neglected and public transparency compromised."

Further, CREDA does not support giving the National Park Service an elevated role in the AMWG or a new role in determining the Operating Criteria for Glen Canyon. Under existing law, the Bureau of Reclamation is the lead agency in establishing and reviewing the Operating Criteria and the Annual Operating Plan.

CREDA is concerned that the Committee's recommendations may have been based on less than complete information and believes that significant changes in the responsibilities of federal agencies with regard to the Colorado River, such as those proposed in the House report language, should not be made without a full discussion among stakeholders and affected agencies.

Finally, as you may not know, a number of issues relating to the Grand Canyon Protection Act and the operations of Glen Canyon Dam are currently the subject of litigation. For this additional reason, CREDA does not believe it is appropriate for Congress to make recommendations for changes in the process and roles of the federal agencies at this time and through this mechanism.

We urge you to work to ensure that the recommendations do not become part of the final House/Senate report on the FY 2010 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leslie James

Leslie James
Executive Director

Cc: CREDA Board

