



Colorado Springs Utilities

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August 6, 2010

Jennifer Gimbel, Director
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Recent Information Regarding CRDSS Modeling and Implications for the Draft Colorado River Water Availability Study Report

Dear Jennifer:

We wanted to make you aware of a situation that has recently come to our attention. Colorado Springs Utilities became aware of data errors in the used in the Colorado River Decision Support System Model, or StateMod, for historical Homestake System diversions, used as demands in StateMod. After assessing the model files posted on the CWCB website, we discovered the demands used for the Homestake diversions totaled 217,000 af/yr, when our historical average has actually been in the 25,000 – 30,000 af/yr range. We confirmed the file containing these errors was used for the Colorado River Water Availability Study (CRWAS).

We have been in contact with your technical staff and consultant team to make them aware of these errors. We were pleased by the quick response of the consultant team in assessing the resulting error. While the impact was negligible in terms of Colorado River water availability, there were substantial changes in the operations of Homestake Reservoir. We will continue to work with your technical staff, as needed, for reanalysis.

We also wanted to let you know we identified and corrected these errors in 2008 while using StateMod to model impacts for our Blue River Substitution NEPA process. Our modeling consultant, Heather Thompson, worked closely with your staff in making the changes and corrections, and a memo of all the corrections including copies of the data files were submitted by Heather to your staff by e-mail in February 2009. We are very surprised, and frankly disappointed, to see that these corrections were not made. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Wayne Vanderschuere

CC: Front Range Water Council

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