



Estes Park • Fort Collins • Longmont • Loveland

Feb. 25, 2026

BY EMAIL: crbpost2026@usbr.gov

United States Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: BCOO-1000
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, Nevada 8900-1470

RE: The United States Bureau of Reclamation's Post-2026 Colorado River Reservoir Operations Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Platte River Power Authority (Platte River) has reviewed the Post-2026 Colorado River Reservoir Operations Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) published at Fed. Reg. Vol. 91, No. 11 (January 16, 2026), and appreciates the efforts the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has put into drafting the DEIS. Platte River respectfully submits these initial comments, reserving the ability to supplement them as Reclamation's analysis continues.

As a generation and transmission provider for Northern Colorado's front range, Platte River appreciates the importance of Colorado River operations to all residents of the Colorado River Basin. Platte River supports and endorses the initial comments submitted by the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association (CREDA) and supports Reclamation's statement of purpose and need included in the DEIS, which clearly recognizes that current conditions could cause water elevation at Glen Canyon Dam to decline to critically low levels that impair both water delivery and hydropower operations. Hydropower is vital to the health and safety of all communities that depend on power generation as part of their daily lives.

Platte River is a not-for-profit, community-owned public power generation and transmission utility that generates and delivers safe, reliable, environmentally responsible, and financially sustainable energy and services to Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland, Colorado, for distribution to their utility customers. From Platte River's inception in 1973, hydropower has been a key component of our generation portfolio and commitment to a clean energy future. To this day, our clean energy goals, and resource adequacy mandate, rely on federal hydropower as an existing dispatchable noncarbon resource.

Platte River has made a commitment to achieve least an 80% noncarbon energy portfolio by 2030, one of the most progressive clean energy goals in Colorado, a state committed to clean energy production. The diversity and resilience of our generation portfolio will be integral to achieving this goal. In recent decades, and particularly in the last several years, the Colorado River's dwindling water supply has reduced our hydropower generation levels.

While hydropower can be a strong contributor to grid resilience and reliability, any loss or reduction of hydropower generation can adversely affect public health and safety in the communities we proudly serve. Reduced hydropower generation also has environmental impacts; any curtailment to the Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA's) hydropower operations requires WAPA and other

entities to purchase replacement power with no guarantee that those sources of energy would not be carbon-emitting. Replacing clean hydropower with purchased power from carbon-emitting sources undercuts our, and others', clean energy goals and potentially adds to the ongoing cycle of drought affecting the Colorado River Basin.

In addition to the direct effects of insufficient hydropower, Reclamation must consider the impacts to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund Basin Fund (Basin Fund), and how reduced Basin Fund revenue could affect WAPA's rates and its ability to meet its contractual obligations to deliver federal hydropower. Reclamation's Final EIS must include analysis of how each alternative will affect generation, Basin Fund revenues, and WAPA's rates. WAPA's firm electric customers need a clear, comprehensive analysis of how changes in water operations will affect hydropower production and contract deliveries, including both direct and indirect cost impacts.

Platte River appreciates Reclamation including WAPA as a cooperating agency and interdisciplinary team member responsible for providing hydropower resource impact modeling and analysis, and asks that hydropower remain at the forefront of Reclamation's analysis. Platte River is encouraged by Reclamation's commitment to a collaborative process and hopes that it continues to seek expertise on hydropower impacts as it considers how to respond to ongoing, severe drought conditions. Platte River echoes CREDA's request that the Final EIS include a full impact analysis of any new consensus alternative, providing at least 45 days for public review and comment before issuing a Record of Decision.

Our vision at Platte River is to be a respected leader and responsible power provider improving the region's quality of life through a more efficient and sustainable energy future. Platte River hopes Reclamation receives this letter with our value proposition in mind and weighs our comments heavily, helping to shape a better energy future for all.

Thank you,

Melie Vincent

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melie Vincent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chief Power Supply Officer
Platte River Power Authority