

**South Swink Water Company**

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October 10, 2012

J. Signe Snortland  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Dakotas Area Office  
P.O. Box 1017  
Bismarck, ND 58502

Re: Arkansas Valley Conduit and Long-Term Excess Capacity Master Contract written comments.

Attention: J. Signe Snortland

John Hostetler (President) and Norman Noe (sec.-treas./manager) of South Swink Water Company (SSWC) are participants and promoters of the AV Conduit.

We believe the "no action alternative" is not a reasonable alternative for water providers in the AV Valley, especially those of us under an enforcement order from Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment for not meeting drinking water standards with the radionuclide rule. SSWC had a preliminary engineering report completed in 2011, and the AV Conduit was the most cost effective and logical answer in meeting drinking water standards. Many other water providers had engineering reports completed also, with similar results. There are water treatment methods to remove radium and alpha from water, but they are cost prohibitive to smaller systems. The waste disposal of radionuclide's is simply too expensive. Our engineering report estimated our annual disposal cost at \$75,000, with capital construction of the water treatment plant at 1.3 million dollars. We will point out that treatment to remove radium and alpha was our second least expensive option following the AV Conduit. Also studied was regionalization with the City of La Junta, but it was estimated more expensive than treatment. We also have sincere concerns that radionuclide disposal costs will be much more expensive in the future, due to stricter regulations, and that makes treatment even less affordable.

We currently serve approximately 250 taps. As indicated from the above dollar figures, a no action alternative leaves SSWC and many others without drinking water that meets standards. All other alternatives are simply out of our reach financially.

Another reason the Arkansas Valley requires the completion of the AV Conduit is we need another source of water for the future. Most small towns and rural water companies utilize the Dakota and Cheyenne aquifers for their water source. Over the years these aquifers have realized significant depletions. For example, static water levels and pumping levels on our wells have decreased approximately 250 feet in the last 50 years. Where will water levels in the Dakota be in year 2062? This could be a problem for future generations if the AV Conduit is not constructed.

SSWC and many other water providers desperately need the AV Conduit constructed.

Our comment on alignments is utilize ones with least impact on getting through Pueblo. As for alignments in the Rocky Ford/La Junta area, we prefer the Comanche South alignment running along Highway 10 or Roads Y & Z from Rocky Ford to La Junta. This route seems less obtrusive and simpler than other alignments following the congestive Highway 50 corridor from Rocky Ford to La Junta.

Thank You for your time on this matter.

John Hostetler, President of South Swink Water Company



Norman Noe, Secretary-Treasurer/ Manager of South Swink Water Company

