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March 26, 2002

Jayne Harkins
 Manager, River Operations
 Bureau of Reclamation
 P.O. Box 61470
 Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470

Dear Ms. Harkins:

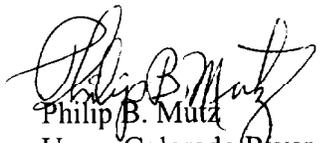
This is in response to your March 7, 2002 memorandum regarding the Five-Year Review of the 1970 Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs.

We believe that the 1970 Criteria for Long-Range Operation of the Colorado River Reservoirs (Operating Criteria) have worked well throughout its period of application. Further, we believe that the actual operating experience has shown that the Operating Criteria include sufficient flexibility to accommodate the necessary changes and modifications to the operation as are dictated by new or changing circumstance. Also, as has been noted on many occasions, the Operating Criteria represent a workable compromise between Upper Basin and Lower Basin operational needs. We firmly believe that the existing criteria will continue to provide the necessary framework to address future system operation without any modification at this time.

The process that is currently established to develop the Annual Operating Plan offers to all who wish to participate an ample opportunity to develop and review information each year as to the strength and adaptability of the Operating Criteria. Therefore, we do not believe that a public meeting is necessary to solicit any more comment than should be received as a result of your current effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Sincerely,


 Philip B. Muta
 Upper Colorado River Commissioner

jrb/Colorado/f 02

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