



State of Utah
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 DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

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Mr. Robert W. Johnson
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Mr. *Bob* Johnson

This letter is Utah's response to the January 15 and March 6, 2002 Federal Register notices concerning the five-year review of the Coordinated Long Range Operating Criteria for the Colorado River reservoirs. While acknowledging these comments are late, I would ask for their consideration as they are in harmony with the comments you have received from most of the other Colorado River Basin States.

During the last five-year review, which concluded in 1998, the Secretary of the Interior advised the governors of the Colorado River Basin States that no changes were necessary to the Long Range Operating Criteria. Subsequent discussions by the Seven Basin States and the Secretary have resulted in the adoption of the Colorado River Interim Surplus Guidelines (guidelines) on January 16, 2001. These guidelines resulted in a substantive change in the operations of the Colorado River until the year 2016. The development and implementation of these guidelines involved much consultation by the stakeholders as well as public input through the EIS process.

As the Governor's representative on the Colorado River, I would like to advise you of Utah's position that the development and implementation process for the interim guidelines more than fulfilled the requirements for a five-year review. Since we are only in the first year of implementing the guidelines, it is premature to try to evaluate the current operations of the Colorado River System or to make any changes to the current operation philosophy. The Colorado River Basin States and the Secretary of the Interior have already agreed on how to operate the Colorado River for the next 15 years. Utah does not see the need to spend time and resources on a review of the Long Range Operating Criteria.

Thank you,

Larry
 D. Larry Anderson P.E.
 Director

cc: Rich McKeown
 Robert Morgan

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