

NATURAL ENERGY RESOURCES COMPANY

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February 12, 2013

**Mr. John Stulp
Special Water Policy Advisor to
Governor John Hickenlooper
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, Colorado 80203**

Subject: Colorado's high altitude water and energy silver bullet

Dear Mr. Stulp:

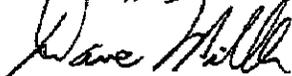
The enclosed subject documents, dated February 1 and February 6, 2013, briefly describe how Colorado's innovative, high altitude, multi-basin, pumped-storage projects could soon solve escalating renewable water and energy shortages throughout Colorado and our nation's arid Southwestern Region.

Unfortunately, Colorado's unique basin-oriented water planning process has systemically ignored the extraordinary economic, environmental, and public safety advantages of regional, high altitude, pumped-storage projects. This breakthrough concept was first publicly revealed during 2007.

In view of Colorado's continuing water policy and planning failures, I respectfully request you forward copies of this letter and enclosers to all of Colorado's governor-appointed Interbasin Compact Committee members, and your volunteer Basin Roundtable members.

I also request an emergency Colorado initiative to implement a cooperative federal – state – local program to evaluate and develop at least one of Colorado's high altitude, multi-basin, pumped-storage solutions for regional water and energy needs. An audit of Colorado's basin-oriented water planning process would reveal it has been counterproductive for achieving a viable State Water Plan, since it was implemented by Colorado's 2005 Legislature.

Sincerely,



Dave Miller, President

Ends: Subject op-ed and letter, dated 2-1-13 and 2-6-13.

cc: Governor Hickenlooper; Colorado Legislators; Colorado's Congressional Delegation; Colorado's municipal, county, business, farm, education, environmental, and media leaders; EPA; CEQ; Secretaries of Interior, Energy, and Agriculture; USBR; USACOE; Western Governors; The White House.

CO desperately needs a professional STATE WATER PLAN & in depth reporting.

2-1-13

Colorado's high altitude water and energy silver bullet

Colorado is naturally blessed as the primary headwater state for our nation's arid Southwestern Region. Colorado also has innovative, but overlooked, high altitude pumped-storage sites that could integrate and multiply the reliability and productivity of limited water and energy resources throughout multiple Southwestern river basins and the western power grid.

U. S. Department of Interior reports confirm that Colorado's highly political water planning process has only developed and beneficially used about 60% of our state's vast legal share of the Colorado River. As a result, Colorado's Front Range cities are being forced to redevelop their high cost transmountain and transmountain reuse alternatives, that would excessively dry up vital rivers, farms, and environments on both sides of the Divide. Meanwhile, Colorado's much larger untapped Gunnison and Yampa Branches of the Colorado River flow freely to explosive growth in down river states.

Advanced modeling could quickly confirm that innovative, high altitude, multi-basin, pumped-storage projects would have benefit-cost ratios higher than 10 to 1 for Colorado and down river states on both sides of the Divide. Traditional western water projects, and those currently planned, have less than 2 to 1 benefit-cost ratios, when all environmental and public safety issues are properly considered.

U. S. Department of Interior studies indicate the Bureau of Reclamation's earthen Taylor Park and Pueblo Dams in Colorado could both suddenly fail catastrophically with only 55% of today's Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) criteria. Over 20,000 lives are at risk. Colorado's currently ignored Central Colorado Project's (CCP) high altitude pumped-storage capabilities would soon replace and enlarge Taylor Park Reservoir, and reduce Pueblo Reservoir's substantial public safety risks.

Water resource engineers generally understand the breakthrough potential of high altitude, pumped-storage projects for the West's escalating renewable water and blackout protection crises. A November 28, 2012 letter from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Director of Civil Works indicates a willingness to help evaluate such projects. Other federal agencies, including the Bureau of Reclamation and EPA, would surely participate, if invited by Colorado. (See www.centralcoloradoproject.us)

Curiously, many of Colorado's appointed and volunteer water policy makers are non-technical land and water right owners, brokers, and lawyers, who have vested interests in Colorado's artificial water shortages and higher prices. To date, Colorado's highest water and political leaders have avoided any public comments on their state's breakthrough, high altitude, multi-basin, pumped-storage potential. This proprietary concept was first publicly revealed during April of 2007.

In view of these facts, all of Colorado's currently proposed and ongoing water projects should be held in obedience until cooperative local, state, and federal EIS scoping comparisons of Colorado's most promising high altitude, multi-basin, pumped-storage alternatives are available for public review. This mandatory action is consistent with good science and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) rules.

Objective modeling can quickly confirm high altitude pumped-storage projects are Colorado's overlooked *silver bullet* for regional water, energy, and environmental needs. Optimized regional river flows and peaking power benefits from high storage are not limited by state boundaries.

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