

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Upper Colorado Regional Office
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84138



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Intermountain Region Office
12795 Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225

February 16, 2016

To Members of the Adaptive Management Workgroup:

During the ongoing public comment period on the LTEMP draft EIS, various entities, including two TWG members during the January 28 TWG meeting, have asked Reclamation and the National Park Service to consider a further extension to the 90-day comment period for the LTEMP draft EIS. At this point in the comment period, we believe it is appropriate to adhere to the originally established comment period ending on April 7, 2016. As you are likely aware, after input from a number of stakeholders, the Department very carefully considered the need for a longer comment period when it established the current timeframe for review of the draft EIS, providing an extended 90 day period from the outset. This 90 day period is twice as long as the standard regulatory timeframe. Therefore, we believe that a request for an extension when we are just mid-way through the comment period is premature.

We appreciate the expressed concerns about the length of the document and its complexity, however we believe that the briefings, meetings and workshops we have conducted throughout development of this document have provided an exceptional level of access to this NEPA process. Further, we hope that the establishment of a comment period that is twice the minimum required under the CEQ and DOI regulations implementing NEPA will provide ample time for review. We also note that the upcoming webinars and public meetings will provide additional opportunities to receive information and ask clarifying questions, and we are willing to consider additional webinars and steps if appropriate.

We realize that all of the participating entities have many overlapping duties and responsibilities. We would urge the AMWG stakeholders, as well as the interested public, to participate in these additional opportunities to receive information on the draft EIS and ask clarifying questions, and look forward to receiving your comments on the draft EIS.

Please call us with any questions: Beverley Heffernan 801-524-3712 and Rob Billerbeck 303-987-6789.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beverley C. Heffernan".

Beverley C. Heffernan
Manager
Environmental Resources Division
Upper Colorado Region
Bureau of Reclamation

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Billerbeck".

Rob Billerbeck
Colorado River Coordinator
Intermountain Region
National Park Service

cc: Jennifer Gimbel, Department of the Interior
Camille Touton, Department of the Interior
Lori Caramanian, Department of the Interior
Bob Snow, Department of the Interior
Rodney Smith, Department of the Interior
Brent Rhees, Bureau of Reclamation
Sue Masica, National Park Service