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Beyond these and other specific details, other issues exist. While it is customary to convey Windy Gap water to Boulder Reservoir via existing open ditches and canals, the Option B proposal includes a pipeline from Carter Lake to Broomfield. The proposal for construction of a pipeline from Carter Lake is not unique to this project. The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD) had proposed as early as 1988 to provide an identical conveyance for reasons exclusive of Great Western water quality.

We remain concerned about both the propriety of the scope of this proposal and estimated costs of the components. This concern has been heightened by the termination of a recent meeting between our consultants and Broomfield officials without substantive discussion of components that had been on the agenda. The Broomfield officials indicated that the agreement by DOE was for a total dollar value and that further discussion of details were inappropriate. This development causes us grave concern. An analysis of cost issues has been completed and transmitted to your staff. However, this analysis is limited by our ability to understand particular project components, as previously described. The information is preliminary and is not sufficiently documented for offsite release. Regardless of the limitations, large discrepancies are apparent. At a minimum, we may not be able to support DOE's need to verify justifiability of costs.

In addition to the justification of costs for the project, the issue of water quality standards also requires reevaluation. The decision was made to comply with the new state site specific stream standards that were based on protection of drinking water supplies, despite successful efforts to divert surface water discharges around the reservoirs. Implementation of that decision has been very expensive. EG&G has spent millions of dollars to sample, analyze, and treat the water before discharge, and disposal of wastes generated by the treatment will add significantly to the costs and the plant solid waste problem. DOE headquarters personnel, who recently visited to discuss budget issues in detail, made it abundantly clear that we are required to work closely with the regulatory community when there are approaches that can conserve precious budget resources. The surface water limits represent one example of such an opportunity. The limits were based on protection of drinking water supplies and have no apparent justification if the discharges do not enter such a supply. It is recommended that DOE approach the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission to propose that appropriate stream standards be developed based on the actual downstream uses. This is not a relaxation of standards, but rather substitution of more relevant standards consistent with the proposed change in use of the water bodies. This approach would, therefore, merely reflect current realities and prevent discrimination against the federal government.

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~~Robert M. Nelson, Jr.~~

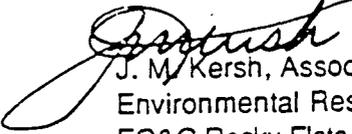
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We are eager to continue our cooperative efforts to ensure proper environmental protection measures are in place and operational, and to engineer and implement justifiable upgrades. We also will continue to provide input for DOE decisions on careful allocation of public funds. This will include continued efforts with our consultants to analyze cost components of Option B within the limits imposed by termination of information exchange with one of the key cities.

Please contact Farrel Hobbs on extension 7006 if you wish to discuss details of our work to date.



J. M. Kersh, Associate General Manager  
Environmental Restoration and Waste Management  
EG&G Rocky Flats

FDH:fm

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