

September 8, 2015

**Urgent Message For:** Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers; City Council Members; El Paso County Commissioners; Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority, & Southeastern Colorado leaders

**Subject:** Southeastern Colorado's unanswered water planning questions

The attached **Colorado's unanswered water planning questions**, dated August 27, 2015, briefly explains how a proposed high altitude pumped-water and energy storage project in Gunnison National Forest, called **Central Colorado Project (CCP)**, could soon reduce escalating renewable water and energy shortages and costs, throughout our nation's arid Southwest Region – including Colorado Springs, El Paso County, and Southeastern Colorado.

Unfortunately, Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) has seriously violated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) rules and good science by failing to consider CCP's breakthrough, U. S. Patented concept, and lower-cost solutions for unpredictable western droughts, growth, and climate change, during Southern Delivery System's (SDS) EIS Evaluations.

In addition to CCP's major overlooked benefits, CSU officials have failed to consider several superior Gunnison/Aspinall Marketable Pool Trans-mountain Alternatives from Colorado's largest Blue Mesa Reservoir and untapped Gunnison River Basin. These detailed U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Gunnison Trans-mountain Studies for Front Range needs were completed during the late 1980s, as part of Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority's (CWRPDA) Phase 1 and 2 Upper Gunnison-Uncompahgre Basin Water Studies.

Central Colorado Project is substantially superior to SDS and all of USBR's conventional Gunnison Trans-mountain Alternatives. CCP's massive high altitude pumped-storage and low cost gravity deliveries can immediately augment Eastern Colorado rivers and existing Front Range pipelines, reservoirs, and delivery systems during extreme droughts, growth, and climate change conditions. In addition, CCP's major net cash flows from its high altitude, high value, peaking power operations for prevention of western blackouts, can be used to lower water and energy costs throughout Colorado, and its downriver states on both sides of the Divide.

If Colorado Springs Utilities were a cooperative owner/developer of CCP, its surplus water, energy, and cash flows could lower renewable water and energy rates for Colorado Springs, El Paso County, and Southeastern Colorado, as well as provide funds for urgent local and regional flood and forest fire control needs.

Why are Colorado Springs water officials expediting construction of SDS's costly, coal fired, pipeline pumping operation from Pueblo Reservoir during an obvious long period of slow growth, while deferring construction of terminal reservoirs east of Colorado Springs that would be needed as buffers during highly variable periods of peak and low water demands?

Thank you for considering Central Colorado Project and other innovative, but ignored, high altitude pumped water and energy storage solutions for Colorado and its downriver states.

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Enclosures: Colorado's unanswered water planning questions, dated  
August 27, and September 8, 2015, with enclosures.

Cc: Western Governors; The White House; Secretaries of Agriculture,  
Interior, Energy, and Army; USBR; USACOE; EPA; Congressional Natural  
Resources Committees; selected local, state, western, national, and  
International leaders.

## Colorado's unanswered water planning questions

Colorado's economic and environmental futures are in serious jeopardy, because of continuing failures to ask and objectively answer the following basic water planning questions:

As the primary headwater state and water source for our nation's arid Southwestern Region, why are Colorado's escalating water shortages, user costs, and farm dry-up rates now among the highest of all western states?

Why is Colorado the only western state that has never formulated and maintained a professional State Water Plan to guide development of its vital interstate water entitlements for current and future generations, as originally directed by Colorado Water Conservation Board's (CWCB) 1937 Legislative Charter?

After twelve years of collaborative water planning with a multi-million dollar Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI), and two years after Governor Hickenlooper's Executive Order to create our state's first Colorado Water Plan, why has CWCB's 410 page Second Draft Colorado Water Plan failed to include recent evaluations of three conventional trans-mountain diversion (TMD) alternatives (*Big Straw, Flaming Gorge, and Yampa*) for Colorado's state-wide water needs?

Why is CWCB's Second Draft Colorado Water Plan promoting high cost and harmful trans-mountain reuse-to-extinction projects for Front Range growth? *Note: Aurora's Prairie Waters Project, Colorado Springs' Southern Delivery System (SDS), and South Metro Denver's Water Infrastructure Supply Efficiency Project (WISE) will substantially increase Front Range water user costs, escalate dry-up of Eastern Colorado farms and environments, and continue to risk permanent loss of Colorado's vast undeveloped and unused legal share of the Colorado River.*

Why is Colorado the only western state trying to develop and maintain a meaningful State Water Plan with nine Basin Roundtables, manned by local, non-professional volunteers? *Note: Some of these local planners have serious conflicts of interest as major land and water owners/brokers/speculators, as well as advisors for numerous state funded water studies.*

How can Colorado's leaders expect a meaningful, consensus-building, Colorado Water Plan from five Eastern Colorado Roundtables, representing 85% of our state's population and agriculture vs. four Western Colorado Roundtables, representing 15% of Colorado's population and agriculture, 85% of Colorado's total river outflows, and 100% of Colorado's vast unused legal share of the Colorado River? *Note: Colorado's currently undeveloped Colorado River entitlements could support about five million additional people, with today's declining water consumption criteria.*

Why has Colorado's recent 12 year statewide water planning process failed to consider U. S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) extensive Gunnison-Arkansas Project Studies during the 1940s and 50s? *Note: USBR's Gun-Ark Studies would have efficiently exported up to 450,000 acre-feet for vital Eastern Colorado needs, without adversely impacting any senior Gunnison Basin water rights. Upper Gunnison consumptive needs for hay and cattle have declined about 35% since the 1960s.*

Why have Colorado's water planners failed to consider USBR's detailed 1987-1989 evaluations of eighteen cost-effective Upper Gunnison/Aspinall Marketable Pool Trans-mountain Alternatives?



*Note: USBR's currently undeveloped Aspinall Marketable Pool Water Rights and Blue Mesa Reservoir were originally authorized by Colorado Congressman Wayne Aspinall and Congress during the late 1950s to primarily help Colorado develop and beneficially use 300,000 acre-feet of its vulnerable Colorado River Rights from Colorado's largest untapped Gunnison River Basin.*

Why were Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority's (CWRPDA) joint Phase 2 Upper Gunnison-Uncompahgre Basin Trans-mountain Water Studies with USBR suddenly cancelled by Colorado's Department of Natural Resources during 1990, without any public explanation? Also, why were Colorado's two highest governor-appointed state water officials suddenly fired on the same day during 1990, without any public explanation?

Why are Colorado's current water planners ignoring a proposed, U. S. Patented, high altitude, multiple river basins, pumped water and energy storage solution in Gunnison National Forest, called Central Colorado Project (CCP)? *Note: CCP's April 2007 White Paper explains how it is uniquely designed to reduce western water and energy costs by multiplying the reliabilities and productivities of limited renewable water and energy resources throughout five major Southwestern river basins (Gunnison, Colorado, South Platte, Arkansas, and Rio Grande), as well as the western power grid.*

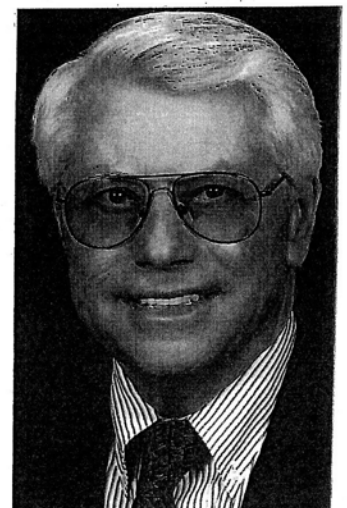
Why are Colorado's water planners ignoring CCP's unprecedented recent engineering evaluations (*summary attached*)? Annual net revenues from CCP's 3,000 megawatt Union Park-Taylor Park pumped-energy storage and peaking power operations for prevention of western blackouts will more than cover CCP's regional water solutions costs. CCP's pumped-water storage and gravity deliveries, when and where needed, will multiply productivities of existing reservoirs, delivery systems, and water rights throughout five major Southwestern river basins on both sides of the Divide. *Note: CCP's surplus revenues can also be used for local and regional forest fire and flood control needs. CCP's "oversight" may explain why Colorado's Front Range water managers are retiring early with exorbitant compensation packages.*

Conclusion: Innovative high altitude multi-basin pumped-water and energy storage projects could help Colorado and all western states reach their renewable energy goals from sporadic wind and solar operations, much sooner than projected. High altitude multiple river basin pumped-storage projects are also near and long-term solutions for highly variable western droughts, growth, recreation, environments, and climate change, throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond. All Colorado, western, and national leaders should immediately call for objective economic and environmental comparisons of innovative high altitude, multi-river, pumped-water and energy storage projects with traditional alternatives, as required by National Environmental Policy Act rules and good science. A State Audit of Colorado's failed water planning practices is also needed.

Allen D. (Dave) Miller, *ABM* B. S. Business, Univ. of Colorado, 1954; M. S. Transportation, Univ. of Tenn., 1963; Active U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Innovator 1954-1974; Retired Air Force Colonel, and active Western water and energy innovator since 1974; 719-481-2003 Fax 719-481-3452; P. O. Box 567, Palmer Lake, CO 80133  
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Encls: CCP Schematic; CCP's Preliminary Regional Water & Energy Benefit-Cost Summary; U.S. Patent Abstract, dated 1-11-11.

Cc: Gov. Hickenlooper; CO Legislators; local, state, western, and national leaders.





US007866919B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
Miller

(10) **Patent No.:** US 7,866,919 B2  
(45) **Date of Patent:** Jan. 11, 2011

(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING WATER FLOW BETWEEN MULTIPLE RESERVOIRS OF A RENEWABLE WATER AND ENERGY SYSTEM**

4,159,188 A 6/1979 Atencio  
4,192,627 A 3/1980 Casebow

(75) **Inventor:** Allen David Miller, Palmer Lake, CO (US)

(Continued)

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

(73) **Assignee:** Natural Energy Resources Company, Palmer Lake, CO (US)

JP 57-131869 8/1982

(\* ) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 295 days.

(Continued)

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

(21) **Appl. No.:** 12/102,651

"Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project," available at <http://www.nypa.gov/facilities/blengil.htm>, printed Jul. 13, 2010, copyright 1996-2010, 2 pages.

(22) **Filed:** Apr. 14, 2008

(65) **Prior Publication Data**  
US 2008/0253837 A1 Oct. 16, 2008

*Primary Examiner*—Tara Mayo-Pinnock  
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Sheridan Ross P.C.

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(60) **Provisional application No.** 60/911,451, filed on Apr. 12, 2007.

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
E02B 9/02 (2006.01)  
E02B 13/00 (2006.01)

A high altitude pumped-storage system for selectively integrating, storing, and distributing water and energy to increase the regional productivity of existing and future water and energy resources throughout multiple river basins is disclosed. This system addresses in part the increased requirement of supplying energy demands from a renewable energy source, such as wind, solar, or water generated power. The system includes at least one primary reservoir connected to multiple secondary reservoirs by conduits. The system allows for selectively distributing water and energy between secondary reservoirs and at least one primary reservoir. The system may comprise one or more hydroelectric power generation facilities. A method for increasing the regional efficiency of existing and future systems for producing, storing, and delivering energy from sources such as hydroelectric, wind and solar power from the water collected by the system described herein is also disclosed.

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... 405/80; 405/51; 405/53; 405/75

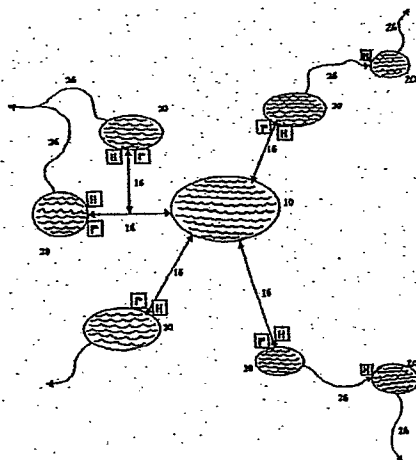
(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 405/36, 405/51-53, 55, 75, 80; 210/747, 170.01  
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

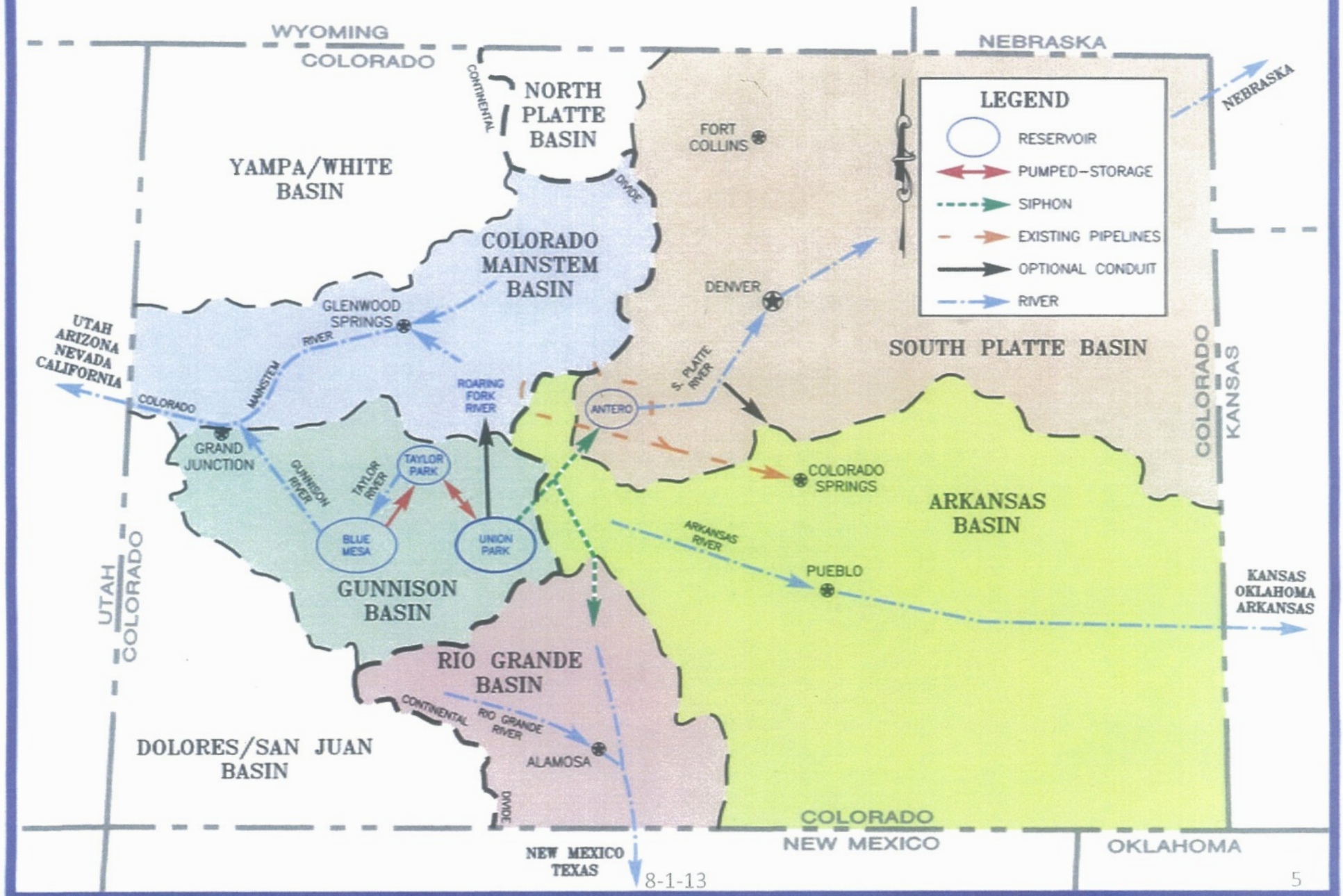
- 2,962,599 A 11/1960 Pirkey
- 3,863,605 A \* 2/1975 Gallup ..... 119/229
- 3,939,356 A 2/1976 Loane
- 4,109,160 A 8/1978 Goto et al.
- 4,117,685 A \* 10/1978 Skaiife ..... 405/36
- 4,132,901 A 1/1979 Crausbay

16 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



# SCHEMATIC OF CENTRAL COLORADO PROJECT (CCP)

## Colorado's optimal State Water Plan





**PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF COSTS FOR CONSTRUCTING AND OPERATING THE CENTRAL COLORADO PROJECT (CCP) MULTI-BASIN WATER SUPPLY AND STORAGE SYSTEM - ALL FEATURES INCLUDED, prepared by Horst Uebliacker, P. E., June 6, 2009**  
 Description of Additional Multi-Basin Water Supply Features: Pump Lift from Blue Mesa Reservoir to Taylor Park Reservoir for up to 300,000 acre-feet annually, with gravity delivery conduits from Union Park Reservoir (1.2 million acre-feet) for selective diversions to South Platte, Arkansas, Rio Grande, and Gurnison River Basins, when and where needed for growth, droughts, climate change, recreation and environments. (Note: Regional modeling will determine expected values and revenues from CCP's integrated multi-basin water supply augmentation capabilities.)  
 Power and Energy Requirements Pump Lift Operation Blue Mesa - Taylor Park Reservoir: 126.0 MW (Power); 919,800 MWh (Energy)

Item	Features/Capacity/Size	Jan 09 Costs
1	Blue Mesa Pumping Plant Intake Structure: Q=500cfs	\$ 7,382,250.00
2	Blue Mesa Pumping Plants: 3 EA. @ Q=500 cfs	\$ 195,034,625.50
3	Blue Mesa Pipeline: Q=500 cfs, L=187,000', d=9'	\$ 426,860,800.00
4	Enlargement of Taylor Park Reservoir: 167,500 acre-feet (HWL El. 9,360 feet)	\$ 36,462,692.00
5	Union Park Dam, Reservoir, Waterways, and Access Roads: (see 3,000 MW Union Park PHES Operation)	\$ -
6	Union Park Tunnel: Q=500 cfs, d=11', L=75,400'	\$ 434,275,200.00
7	South Cottonwood Creek Pipeline: Q=500 cfs, d=9', L=15,500'	\$ 16,669,750.00
8	Arkansas Valley Siphon: Q=500 cfs, d=9', L=84,300'	\$ 498,470,280.00
9	Sevenmile Creek Pipeline: Q=500 cfs, d=9', L=4,300'	\$ 4,708,500.00
10	Trout Creek Pass Tunnel: Q=500 cfs, d=11', L=29,900'	\$ 135,463,760.00
11	Sell Creek Drop Structure/Creek Stabilization: Q=500 cfs, L=23,000'	\$ 7,617,600.00
12	Transmission Line: 69KV (900 Amps), L=150,000'	\$ 10,113,636.36
13	Rio Grande Basin Conduit: Q=200 cfs, d=6.5', L=184,694'	\$ 222,095,018.00
14	Roaring Fork Valley Conduit: Q=200 cfs, d=6.5', L=85,061' (Pipeline); Q=400 cfs, d=10', L=47,045' (Tunnel)	\$ 277,262,288.00
	Subtotal	\$ 2,275,576,377.86
	Unlisted Items (20%)	\$ 455,116,275.57
	Subtotal	\$ 2,730,691,653.43
	Engineering, Administrative and Legal Services (25%)	\$ 682,672,913.38
	Total Construction Cost	\$ 3,413,364,566.79
	Interest During Construction @ 4.196%, n = 5 years	\$ 778,886,552.32
	Total Investment	\$ 4,192,251,119.11
	Annual Cost	
	Amortized Investment 50 yrs. @ 5%	\$ 229,637,830.84
	OM (Excluding power and energy costs/revenues) @ 4.98%	\$ 11,435,863.97
	Replacement Storage @ Blue Mesa (\$50/acre-ft.)	\$ 15,000,000.00
	Annual Power and Energy Costs: \$1,686,750.09/MW; \$45.77/MWh	\$ 254,629,757.34
	Total Annual Cost	\$ 616,703,551.95
	Annual Cost per acre-ft. (\$/acre-ft.)	\$ 1,702.35

**PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE REVENUES AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR UNION PARK/TAYLOR PARK PUMPED HYDRO ENERGY STORAGE OPERATION, Horst Uebliacker, P. E., June 3, 2009** PAGE 1 OF 2

Power and Capacity		
Head	240.68 Meters	
Limiting Forebay Volume	41,939,000.00 M <sup>3</sup>	
	40,000.00 acre feet	
Res. Surface Area @ El. 10,120 ft.	10,040.00 Acres	
Flow Rate Min	1,164.97 M <sup>3</sup> /S	
Flow Rate Max	1,459.22 M <sup>3</sup> /S	
Storage Time Min	8.00 hours	
Storage Time Max	10.00 hours	
Power Min	2,474.48 MW	
Power Max	3,093.11 MW	
Energy	24,744.85 MWh/day	
	** Assumes 15% of forebay volume is unused	
Revenue		
Cycle Value	\$1,104,130	
Annual Revenue	\$401,903,194	
Avoided NG Cost	\$253,325,388	
Avoided CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions	9,713,020.54 tons(metric) of CO <sub>2</sub> avoided/year	
CO <sub>2</sub> value	\$48,565,102.72 value per annual CO <sub>2</sub> reduction	
Avoided SO <sub>2</sub> Emissions	2,165.35 tons(metric) of SO <sub>2</sub> avoided/year	
SO <sub>2</sub> value	\$1,299,209.44 Annual Traded Value	
Total	\$705,092,694.68 Total Annual Value	
Total	\$450,466,286.92 Coumited Annual Revenue	
Cost Breakdown-by %		
Environmental Impact Statements and Federal Permits	2%	\$82,398,318
Power Station Structures and Improvements	9%	\$351,058,033
Reservoirs, Dams, Waterways, and Access Roads	22%	\$890,519,820
Reversible Pump Turbines and Valve Governors	9%	\$370,782,430
Generator Motors and Stalle Starting Equipment	6%	\$257,494,743
Accessory Electrical Power and Plant Substation Equipment	10%	\$408,970,317
Engineering, Administrative, and Legal Services	14%	\$569,368,842
Subsurface Exploration, Design, and Construction	27%	\$1,090,404,406
OTHER		\$0
Cost Estimate Based on Needed Facilities and other Costs	TOTAL	\$4,021,037,909

**Added Note by A. D. Miller, July 2014:** These Preliminary Engineering Evaluations of Central Colorado Project's unprecedented high altitude pumped-water and energy storage capabilities, dated June 2009, were prepared by Horst Uebliacker PE (5-19-39 to 3-3-11) of UEBLACKER ASSOCIATES, Consulting Engineers, Geologists, Constructors, Lakewood, Colorado. Horst was one of the world's most respected geo-technical engineers, and water, energy, and dam experts, before his untimely heart failure and death. In addition to these highly professional benefit-cost evaluations of CCP, Mr. Uebliacker and his international team of experts completed a 125 page Phase 1 Feasibility Level Geological and Geotechnical Investigation for Union Park Dam, dated February 2004. This detailed report concluded: "Geological conditions are favorable for construction of a large roller-compacted concrete (RCC) Dam in Union Canyon. This modern, strategically located dam and reservoir can safely store 1,200,000 acre-feet of high quality multi-year drought protection for Colorado's five major river basins. The dam's total estimated construction cost is \$394,563,000. With its off-setting peaking power revenues, and dam costs of only \$329 per acre-foot, Union Park Dam may become the world's most cost-effective water storage facility." UEBLACKER ASSOCIATES also completed an 83 page Phase 2 Stability Evaluation Report of Union Park Dam under Hydrologic Loading, dated July 2004. This report included a 40 page Hydrologic Evaluation for Union Park Reservoir by Alan J. Leak, WRC Engineering, Denver, Colorado, dated July 14, 2004. The results indicated "the inflow design flood can be safely retained by the proposed 575 ft. high and 2,050 ft. wide roller compacted concrete gravity dam, requiring no emergency spillway".

**PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE REVENUES AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR UNION PARK/TAYLOR PARK PUMPED HYDRO ENERGY STORAGE OPERATION, Horst Uebliacker, P. E., June 3, 2009 cont'd.** PAGE 2 OF 2

Payback Period and Life Cycle overnight cost	\$4,021,037,910	Cost based on Max Cost of shortest storage duration & fertilized cost entries.
Does CO <sub>2</sub> Have Market Value?	yes yes or no	CO <sub>2</sub> valued at \$48,565,102.72 at \$5/ton
Annual Rev	\$655,228,583	Revenue based on Min storage time and buying vs. selling data
Payback Time	13 years	
Life Time Net Present Value	\$93,102,943,163	100 year plant lifetime
Interest Rate	6.50%	
O & M	\$20,105,190 per year	
Construction Time	5 years	
Annual % Increase in Cost	1.00%	

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Also, why have SDS permitting officials ignored several U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Dam Safety Studies, which indicate Pueblo Reservoir could suddenly fail catastrophically, with only 55% of today's Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) criteria. In addition, Pueblo Reservoir has never been filled to its designed spillway capacity, because of stability concerns involving the dam's concrete spillway on a weak sandstone and shale foundation. This means thousands of Arkansas Valley lives are potentially at risk. Why were all of these dam safety facts ignored during CSU's fatally flawed EIS permitting process for Southern Delivery System?

With regard to Colorado Springs' Utilities sunk costs in SDS's constant-flow pipeline pumping operations from Pueblo Reservoir, it may be technically and economically feasible to convert this obsolete facility into a needed local and regional storm water collection and storage system for El Paso and Pueblo Counties, as well as Colorado's Lower Arkansas River Basin.

All Southeastern Colorado stakeholders should ask why local, state, and federal water leaders have improperly ignored Colorado's superior Gunnison Trans-mountain water supply alternatives, *including Central Colorado Project*, during Southern Delivery System's formal EIS evaluations of *all reasonable alternatives*. Also, why have key leaders responsible for Southern Delivery System's seriously flawed evaluations quietly retired early for unexplained reasons?

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