

November 7, 2014

Colorado's Water & Energy Paradigm

Professional engineering evaluations have confirmed Central Colorado Project (CCP) is a breakthrough, high altitude, multiple river basins, pumped-water and energy storage solution for Colorado and its downriver states on both sides of the Continental Divide.

Projected net cash flows from CCP's 3,000 megawatt reversible pumped-storage operations for western blackout prevention needs will substantially reduce CCP's regional water solutions costs. CCP's integrated high storage will also continuously optimize the reliability and productivity of multiple river flows, water storage rights, and sporadic wind and solar operations throughout Colorado and our nation's arid Southwestern Region.

CCP will annually pump-store the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) undeveloped 300,000 acre-feet Aspinall Marketable Pool Water Rights into a new 1.2 million acre-feet Union Park Reservoir, at 10,120 feet altitude in Gunnison National Forest. USBR's valuable, but ignored, storage rights in USBR's existing Blue Mesa Reservoir were officially authorized by Congress in 1957 and Colorado in 1962, to primarily help Colorado develop some of its vast unused legal share of the Colorado River for vital statewide consumptive needs.

USBR's Aspinall Project replaced USBR's larger Gunnison-Arkansas Project. Gun-Ark would have annually diverted up to 450,000 acre-feet for eastern Colorado's urban growth and agricultural needs, without adversely impacting any senior Gunnison water rights. The Upper Gunnison's consumptive needs for agriculture have declined more than 30%, since the 1960s.

Water and energy planners are obligated by good science and national environmental rules to objectively compare all reasonable alternatives, before proceeding with major new plans and projects. Objective economic and environmental modeling could quickly confirm CCP's overall benefit-cost ratio for the western power grid and five major Southwestern river basins (*Gunnison, Rio Grande, Arkansas, South Platte, and Colorado*) is higher than 10 to 1.

Traditional dams on rivers, and various trans-mountain reuse-to-extinction projects, currently being developed and/or considered for local, state, and regional water and energy needs, have only about 2 to 1 benefit-cost ratios. Major engineering firms and/or universities could quickly verify CCP's paradigm Western renewable water and energy productivity multiplier advantages.

Our nation's Western water and energy users, planners, and political leaders should immediately unite behind emergency programs to identify, model, permit, and construct innovative, high altitude, multiple river basin, pumped water and energy storage projects, for highly variable and unpredictable, droughts, growth, blackouts, and climate change needs. Surplus revenues from such cost reducing public utility projects can also be used to provide needed public funding for vital local and regional flood and forest fire control needs.

Why are Colorado's Front Range cities drying up eastern Colorado farms and environments with costly and harmful trans-mountain reuse-to-extinction projects, while Central Colorado Project's cost reducing clean water and energy solutions for consumers on both sides of the Divide are being intentionally ignored by local, state, and federal planners? All Western citizens deserve clear and timely answers to this basic renewable water and energy question.

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Enclosures: CCP Schematic; CCP Engineering Evaluations; U. S. Patent Abstract, dated 1-11-11