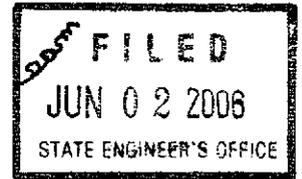


IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER OF THE STATE OF NEVADA



IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION NUMBER.....73667.....
FILED BY....NEVADA POWER COMPANY AND SIERRA PACIFIC
POWER COMPANY.....ON...30TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2005...
TO APPROPRIATE THE WATERS OF...STATE OF NEVADA

} PROTEST

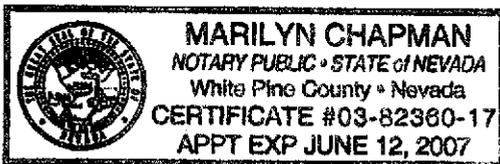
Comes now the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, whose post office address is 702 N. Industrial Way, HC 33 Box 33500 Ely, NV 89301 and whose occupation is public land management, to protest the granting of Application Number 73667, filed on December 30, 2005 by Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company, to appropriate the waters of an underground source situated in NE1/4 NE1/4 Section 30, T20N, R64E MDM or at a point from which the SE corner of said Section 32, T 20N, R64E, MDM bears S 31 deg 51 min E, a distance of 11,128 feet (approx. 11 miles NNW of McGill) White Pine County, State of Nevada, for the following reasons and on the following grounds, to wit See attached

THEREFORE the Protestant requests that the application be**DENIED**.....
Denied, issued subject to prior rights, etc., as the case may be
and that an order be entered for such relief as the State Engineer deems just and proper.

Signed *William E. Dunn*
Agent or protestant

**William E. Dunn, AFM Renewable Resources
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, Nevada 89301**

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of May, 2006.



Marilyn Chapman
Notary Public
State of NEVADA
County of White Pine

**Ⓢ\$25 FILING FEE MUST ACCOMPANY PROTEST. PROTEST MUST BE FILED IN DUPLICATE.
ALL COPIES MUST CONTAIN ORIGINAL SIGNATURE.**

2006 JUN 2 10:40 AM
STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408



ATTACHMENT FOR PROTEST OF APPLICATION 73667 (Steptoe Valley)

This application is being protested by the Bureau of Land Management because it would affect sensitive water resources on public lands managed by the BLM.

A report prepared by CH2M HILL on November 9, 2005 titled "Documentation of the Application of a Numerical Model to Simulate Ground Water Response to Pumping for the Proposed White Pine Energy Station in Steptoe Valley, Nevada" indicated a project-induced drawdown in both the shallow unconfined aquifer and the deeper confined groundwater.

This application, along with the other eight applications filed by Nevada Power Company in Steptoe Valley (Basin 179), would have the same affect as what the model showed for the proposed White Pine Energy Station. In addition, these eight applications are in the same locations as the permitted water rights held by White Pine County that were modeled. Finally, White Pine Energy changed it's proposal to use less water for it's energy station because of the results of this model/study.