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

FILED
JUN 0 2 2006
STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION NUMBER.....73668.....,

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 73668, filed on December 30, 2005 by Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company. to appropriate the waters of an underground source situated in SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 30, T20N, R64E MDM or at a point from which the SE corner of said Section 32, T 20N, R64E, MDM bears S 60 deg 44 min E, a distance of 11,500 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 ...31st...day of...May..., 2006.

MARILYN CHAPMAN
NOTARY PUBLIC • STATE of NEVADA
White Pine County • Nevada
CERTIFICATE #03-82360-17
APPT EXP JUNE 12, 2007

.....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.

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408

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ATTACHMENT FOR PROTEST OF APPLICATION 73668
(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.