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.....73672.....,

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 73672, 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 27, T21N, R61E MDM or at a point from which the SE corner of said Section 34, T 21N, R61E, MDM bears S 01 deg 04 min E, a distance of 10,416 feet (approx. 23 miles NW 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....., 20.06

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

.....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 AM 10:41

United States Department of the Interior

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

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

ATTACHMENT FOR PROTESTS OF APPLICATIONS 73672
(Butte Valley)

This application is being protested by the Bureau of Land Management because it would exceed the estimated perennial yield for Butte Valley (Basin 178). According to the State of Nevada's Water Resources and Inter-Basin Flows Map, the estimated perennial yield for Butte Valley (Basin 179) is 14,000 acre feet. This application, along with the other six applications filed by Nevada Power Company in Butte Valley (Basin 178), would use 15,200 acre feet exceeding the estimated perennial yield by 1,200 acre feet. This does not take into account any existing water rights in Butte Valley (Basin 178).

Granting water rights for these applications are not in the public interest because the loss of groundwater would affect habitat for wildlife and wild horses. Hunter Spring and April Fool Spring are located near the applications and could be affected by the drawdown from these applications. There are also four active sage grouse strutting grounds within five miles of these applications that could be impacted if these springs are lost.