

June 13, 2007

By email to: NM_comments@nm.blm.gov

Buckman Water Diversion Project FEIS
Project Manager,
Bureau of Land Management
Taos Field Office
226 Cruz Alta Road
Taos, NM 87571

Re: Request for Extension of Time to Provide Comments About
the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Buckman
Water Diversion Project

Dear Project Manager:

The following organizations and individuals request a 30-day extension of time to provide comments about the final Environmental Impact Statement (final EIS) for the Buckman Water Diversion Project to July 18, 2007. The current comment period ends June 18, 2007.

The May 2, 2007 cover letter from Sanford Hurlocker, District Ranger of the Santa Fe National Forest, enclosing the final EIS document did not state that there was a comment period for the final EIS. It states: "We anticipate that the notice of availability will be published May 18, 2007. A record of decision is expected once the 30-day waiting period is completed." There was no mention in the letter of a comment period for the final EIS. We discovered the comment period by going to the BLM website. We were not properly notified. This procedural error requires the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the USDA Forest Service to grant a 30-day extension of time to provide comments about the final EIS.

Further, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS) and Amigos Bravos demonstrated interest in the project by providing comments to the draft EIS. CCNS is familiar with the National Environmental Policy Act documents prepared by the Department of Energy where changes between the draft and the final are indicated by a vertical line on the right side of the page. The BLM and USDA Forest Service did not provide such markings. It will take additional time to compare the draft and the final EIS to ensure a complete understanding of the changes. Therefore, due the

procedural error and difficulty in comparing the draft and final documents, the 30-day extension of time request must be granted.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please let us know at your earliest convenience about granting the 30-day extension of time. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the representatives of the organizations and individuals listed below.

Sincerely,

Joni Arends, Executive Director
Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
107 Cienega Street
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 986-1973
jarends@nuclearactive.org

Brian Shields, Executive Director
Amigos Bravos
P. O. Box 238
Taos, NM 87571
(505) 758-3874
bshields@amigosbravos.org

Kay Matthews
Rio Pueblo/Rio Embudo Watershed Protection Coalition
Box 6 El Valle Route
Chamisal, NM 87521
rmms@espanola-nm.com

Patricia D_Andrea
Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Project
P. O. Box 6387
Santa Fe, NM 87502
riverwoman@earthlink.net

Sebia Hawkins and Spin Dunbar
Aamodt Settlement Plaintiffs/Defendants
P. O. Box 769
Tesuque, NM 87547
sahawkins1@earthlink.net

cc: Santa Fe City Council members
Santa Fe County Commissioners
Española City Council members
San Ildefonso Pueblo Tribal Council
Tesuque Pueblo Tribal Council
Sanford Hurlocker, District Ranger by email
at shurlocker@fs.fed.us