

May 14, 2021

Vince Yearick, Director
Division of Hydropower Licensing
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: **Nevada Hydro Company, Inc., Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project (Project No. 14227-003)**

Dear Mr. Yearick:

The U.S. Forest Service and Nevada Hydro Company, Inc. jointly respond herein to the Commission's April 29, 2021 letter requesting an update on the status and expected completion date of outstanding studies for the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage (LEAPS) Project.

On October 8, 2019, the U.S. Forest Service filed comments on the study plan and schedule. On November 22, 2019, the Commission directed Nevada Hydro to file monthly progress reports. On May 28, 2020, Nevada Hydro filed a proposal to finalize the study plan and schedule. On March 9, 2021, Nevada Hydro submitted its most recent update that described facilitated meetings among technical staff between October 9, 2020 and January 12, 2021. These meetings were productive but did not resolve issues as necessary to finalize the study plan and schedule.

On May 7, 2021, the U.S. Forest Service and Nevada Hydro met to discuss an approach for such resolution. The meeting included representatives from the Forest Service Chief's Office, Regional Forester's Office, and Cleveland National Forest, as well as management-level representatives from Nevada Hydro. The parties agreed to a round of facilitated meetings to occur in the near future, with the firm intent to reach resolution on the final study plan and schedule.

Nevada Hydro will provide a progress report by June 30, 2021. That report will address resolution if reached on the final study plan and schedule. It will otherwise state each party's inventory of remaining issues.

Thank you for considering this update.

Vince Yearick
May 14, 2021
Page 2

Sincerely,

Scott Vandergrift

Scott Vandergrift
Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officer
U.S. Department of Agriculture

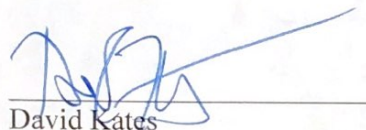
David Kates
Nevada Hydro Company, Inc.

Cc: Service list

Vince Yearick
May 14, 2021
Page 2

Sincerely,

Scott Vandergrift
Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officer
U.S. Department of Agriculture



David Kates
Nevada Hydro Company, Inc.

Cc: Service list