



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8

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AUG 8 2013

Ref: 8EPR-N

Mr. Jim Hartman, A7400
NEPA Document Manager
Natural Resources Office
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 281213
Lakewood, CO 80228-8213

Re: Granby Pumping Plant Switchyard - Windy
Gap Substation Transmission Line Rebuild
Final Environmental Impact Statement
CEQ#20130186

Dear Mr. Hartman:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 has reviewed the Granby Pumping Plant Switchyard-Windy Gap Substation Transmission Line Rebuild Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS). The EPA reviews EISs in accordance with its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Section 309 of the Clean Air Act directs the EPA to review and comment in writing on the environmental impacts of any major federal agency action.

The Western Area Power Administration owns and operates a 13.6 mile, 69 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line in Grand County, Colorado, that originates at Windy Gap Substation. The proposed project involves rebuilding this single-circuit line as a double-circuit transmission line and adding a second power transformer. One circuit would replace the existing 69 kV line and the other circuit would be a new 138 kV line.

The EPA is satisfied that the Final EIS adequately addressed our comments on in the Draft EIS. We did find that the response to comment number A-4-2 was general rather than specific to our comment. With the projected loss of power from the Adams Tunnel power cable, the EPA was unclear about the type of power generation would replace the power source for the Adams Tunnel power cable. The Final EIS response to this comment leaves us still unclear whether the replacement power source would be hydropower, or other generation sources with associated emissions. The EPA recommends that future transmission line installations or rebuilds address the sources of power for these transmission lines and that any projected changes in electric generation-related emissions be documented in the EIS.