



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Alamosa Field Division
10900 Highway 160 East
Alamosa, CO 81101-9518

AFD-408
Adm-13.00

SEP 25 2009

Southern Colorado Transmission Improvement
Attn: Karli Nelson, Tri State
1100 W. 116 Avenue
Westminster, CO 80234

Subject: Transmission Line Through San Luis Valley


Dear Ms. Nelson:

In behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, San Luis Valley Project, Closed Basin Division located in Alamosa, Colorado, I would like to express our support of the San Luis Valley Electric System Improvement Project. Our understanding is there is currently only one source of power into the Valley and it has reached or is close to reaching its maximum capacity.

The Closed Basin Project is dependent upon reliable electrical power for our 170 salvage wells and other Project facilities. The Project delivers water to the Rio Grande to assist Colorado in meeting Rio Grande Compact water delivery requirements.

Should electrical power be lost to the Valley for any extended period of time, the Closed Basin facilities would be rendered inoperable. With the loss of our automated electrical system (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) (SCADA System), each well will have to be physically checked for flooding and to insure all of the valves are closed. Should an extended outage occur during winter months, the damage could be extensive and expensive to repair.

Reclamation is presently researching alternative energy programs for the Project. Assurance of adequate transmission facilities will be important to this effort. Thank you for allowing us to submit our comments on this very important issue for the San Luis Valley.

Sincerely,

Ken Beck, Manager
Alamos Field Division

cc: John Villyard
Jim Clare