



Water Pipeling Comments <nsepipelinecomments@gmail.com>

Comment Re: SNWA pipeline project

1 message

Merle Rawlings <merlerawlings@yahoo.com>

Wed, Nov 30, 2011 at 3:35 PM

To: nsepipelinecomments@gmail.com

Cc: Merle Rawlings <merlerawlings@yahoo.com>

My comment is specifically directed toward the enormous costs associated with the SNWA's scheme of pumping and carrying/transporting water from eastern Nevada's aquifers to southern Nevada. For years, the public has been fed SNWA press releases indicating a pipeline could be built costing \$2-4 billion.

However, a financial analysis completed this summer by Hobbs, Ong and Associates of Las Vegas computes the true pipeline cost at over \$15 BILLION! When both estimated construction cost (\$7.3 billion) and financing cost (over \$8 billion) are passed on to southern Nevada consumers, an already financially stressed region of Nevada will receive a triple whammy. The new financial analysis indicates monthly water costs for Las Vegas residential customers will triple; businesses would see an average monthly water bill skyrocket from some \$300 per month to almost \$750 per month. And this on top of an already depressed economy battling high unemployment and the highest mortgage-default rate in the nation.

All the above equates to an "economic death by a thousand cuts" for southern Nevada water users. And this does not include the spectre of even some of the horrors of an Owens Valley, California taking place in the valleys of eastern Nevada. Of course, those valley residents have been assured of mitigation measures in case of overpumping, but for those who live there, mitigation equals extinction! As I write this email today, our area is under a winter storm warning. The U.S. Weather Service predicts winds of 35 MPH and gusts of over 50 MPH. After our desert ground cover has died due to a lowering water table, exactly what prevents our soil from becoming airborne?

As I mentioned in my opening paragraph, my main focus was commenting on the enormous costs associated with SNWA's water transfer scheme. As we all know, "costs" go well beyond the expenditure of billions of dollars for the pipeline and pumping expenses. There is a veritable "minefield" of costs--financial, environmental, and human-- associated with this ill-advised water project. I urge you to consider all of them as you make your decision.

Thank you.
Merle Rawlings,
North Snake Valley

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