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STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

CLARK, LINCOLN and WHITE PINE COUNTIES Groundwater Development Project
PUBLIC COMMENT

For over 20 years Great Basin Shoshone Tribes have been in socioeconomic limbo. Our attempts to bring manufacturing and industry to our lands have fallen on deaf ears because SNWA statewide water applications have created a looming specter of insufficient water supplies in the Great Basin.

SNWA wants the water rights now, but Pat Mulroy has stated on KNPR – “State of Nevada” that they will wait to actually build the pipeline until a critical water situation arises. Due to the recession, Las Vegas no longer NEEDS the pipeline. Many folks have moved away (BLM DEIS, Table 3.19-12 shows overall housing vacancy rate in 2010 was 15%.) Unemployment in the area remains in the double digits.

The Ely Shoshone Tribe has 3,601 acres (not 111 acres as stated in DEIS) that we are trying to develop. We are attempting to acquire projects that produce renewable energy, and to manufacture solar equipment. German manufacturers have visited Ely to meet with us and have shown immense interest. However the possibility of a water shortage due to the SNWA GDP quells their enthusiasm.

Tying up our water supply for over a century* certainly isn't conducive to our attempts to become self-sufficient.

*1989 to 2011 = 22 years
Life of pipeline = 75 years
Construction of pipeline = approx. 8 years
Critical level in Lake Mead = ? years

Therefore we are asking the State Engineer for a denial of SNWA GDP water rights. Please free our Native Peoples from the bonds SNWA hath created.



Delaine Spilsbury – Director, Newe NRG, Ely Shoshone Tribe