

FW: NV/UT Water Agreement Comment

Merle Rawlings [desertlevite@hotmail.com]

Sent:

Tuesday, September 29, 2009 3:43 PM

To:

[Snake Valley](#)

Please consider the comment below concerning the NV/UT water Agreement.
Thank you.

Merle Rawlings

From: desertlevite@hotmail.com
To: snakevalley@utah.gov
Subject: NV/UT Water Agreement Comment
Date: Tue, 29 Sep 2009 16:37:52 -0600

The amount of water (132,000 acre feet) postulated as the very foundation for the Agreement is highly speculative. Negotiators from both states, have used the highest USGS BARCASS Study "guestimates" as the amount of water available to be shared. This, in spite of a one-in-three chance BARCASS is incorrect in its assumptions of the real amount of water in the aquifer.

Haven't we learned anything from the disastrous Colorado River Compact water distributiton fiasco? Using data collected during some of the wettest ten-year periods of river flow on record, politicians distributed the highest amounts of water possible, not giving thought or consideration to a simple query: What if the river's annual flow is less than what has been forecast?

Incredibly, it appears the NV/UT proposed Agreement is moving full speed down that same road of over-promise and regret. Why are we being so generous with water that might not be there? After all, there is a greater than 30% chance (according to BARCASS) that is the case.

I urge the negotiators from both states to reconsider the 132,000 acre feet assumption as the starting point of an Agreement to divide the water of the Snake Valley aquifer. It is not too late to raise the essential question: "What if we are wrong?"

Thank you for considering my comment.

Merle Rawlings
North Snake Valley, UT

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