

I want to let you know (before any deadlines pass) that I am opposed to the use, damage, or even potential damage of Bear Lake (a public resource) for private gain (i.e., the Hook Canyon project owners and shareholders). The State of Utah should not sell the "school children's land" so that Symbiotics can develop an upper reservoir, nor should the states (Utah and Idaho) allow Symbiotics to use the Bear Lake as a lower reservoir.

Symbiotics doesn't need a beautiful natural lake like Bear Lake for their project; they need "only a reservoir", not a lake that has characteristics that make it more valuable than a reservoir. And we as a community and as taxpayers should not subsidize their quest for wealth, nor should we have to bear the risks and costs if their project fails because they have not correctly bet on where the electricity economy will turn. They are placing a bet that can them wealthy, but we have to bear any downside loss. If their bet is correct, they become wealthy and we have to deal with the damage to the lake. If their bet isn't correct, we bear an even greater cost due to the damage, since they will be in no position to help restore the lake.

It annoys me that Symbiotics has little regard for the Bear lake community. They have even said that we are uneducated (though at the Montpelier, ID meeting, we even had more PhD's than they did). They have even exhibited a lack of respect for the Utah and Idaho state governments, as if they can bully their way to approval. They have suggested that this project will benefit Utah, yet the economics will encourage them to sell their electricity to California; and they have claimed that their project is Green, yet it would be Green only to California, since California could get the energy without generating any emissions--Utah or Idaho will generate emission producing the nighttime, input electricity, and the daytime re-generation from their project will also have a carbon impact as it is re-transmitted through the wires.

It appears that Symbiotics is proposing the project as a Spaghetti Project: propose it to a number of communities, and see if one community doesn't oppose. They have misled the public implying that they already have the water rights, the land rights, the transmission "rights", etc., but when questioned more deeply, they admit that the water rights are currently only a handshake, the state has not approved the sale of the land for the upper reservoir, and the power company seems also to have not been informed regarding the "new" electricity generation (which, again, suggests they will sell the electricity to the higher bidder in California) and readily admit that the current transmission lines would have to be upgraded to handle the extra outflow.

When questioned, they said that other locations are not economically viable. First, that's hard to believe, since their own electricity generation projections suggest they will make billions; but it also makes me wonder what they are telling the other communities where they are applying for additional licenses, and . . . what they are telling their investors. If they are misleading the Bear Lake community, are they also misleading their investors as well as other communities?

As I have more time over the weekend, I will re-write and submit a lengthier letter that addresses some of the economic issues. But it annoys me that their actions force me (1) to spend my time fighting to keep a public resource from being damaged, (2) to use my tax dollars to pay for analysis that our local, state and federal government entities are required to perform just because they have submitted a proposal aimed at increasing their wealth as they damage the public resource, and then (3) to spend even more time fighting FERC and well as paying FERC to have to listen to us fighting them.

The Governor of Utah put the promotion of tourism in his campaign platform. Tourism can benefit a broad economy. This project can hurt tourism, and hence the broad Utah economy, while benefiting only a few shareholders and the electricity buyers of California.

In some ways this proposal is also a perversion of the Stone Soup fable: If we sacrifice just a little, then they can profit immensely. If the power company upgrades their transmission lines, if the State of Utah sells our "school children's lands" at a cheap rate, and if we let them damage a unique natural lake, they can become billionaires.

Please consider my comments and help us stop the Hook Canyon project, and stop this Reverse Robin Hood proposal "taking from the poor, to give to the rich".

Thank you for your time!

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