

Chilchinbeto project could help region

Editor,

As (president/leadership) of the Chapter home of the Chilchinbeto Pumped Storage Hydropower Project, thank you for publishing Speaker Lorenzo Bates' letter regarding the opportunity of clean energy for the Navajo Nation.

I share his enthusiasm for the Navajo Nation's June Economic Summit wherein President Nygren spoke of how the Nation's development of clean energy would help the Nation regain its place of prominence as a regional energy power.

Importantly Speaker Bates also shared how energy projects can develop water resources for the Nation. The Chilchinbeto Pumped Storage Hydropower Project can help the Nation gain access to the C Aquifer.

The C Aquifer covers over 27,000 square miles and flows from Flagstaff to about 3,000 feet below the Chilchinbeto Chapter House. It is so deep and of uncertain water quality that nobody has drilled a well to the aquifer in our area. Yet with our Project, over 2,000 acre-feet of water infrastructure will be created making clean water available to the Nation for grazing, agriculture and drinking water.

Chilchinbeto Chapter has been told it can't any time soon gain access to:

the San Juan River because the water can't cross state lines;
the Colorado River because of the recent Supreme Court ruling;
the N Aquifer because environmentalists don't want it used for the project.

The Chilchinbeto Pumped Storage Hydropower Project is the opportunity for the Chapter...and the region in our area [mention other Chapters?] ...to develop water infrastructure that all Chapters should have.

The Project will bring billions of dollars to the Nation, offer the opportunity for the Nation to build two GW of solar projects, jobs and most importantly for us, water infrastructure for the prosperity of us, our children and generations to come. Water is life.

Paul Madson
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