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October 13, 2008

Donna Mickley, Special Projects Coordinator Unites States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Arapaho NF, Duty Station Regional Office 740 Simms Golden, CO 80401

Elizabeth Moncrief, Lands and Minerals Program Manager Unites States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Arapaho and Roosevelt NF's and Pawnee NG 2150 Centre Avenue, Bldg. E Fort Collins, CO 80526-8119

## RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CLEAR CREEK POWER, LLC

Dear Ms. Mickley and Ms. Moncrief,

The Colorado Brownfields Foundation is, respectfully, submitting this letter of support on behalf of Clear Creek Power, LLC (CCP), who has submitted to your agency a special use permit proposal to allow the construction of a meteorological sampling site and to use Cascade Creek Road, both located on National Forest System lands. It is our understanding that the intent of their proposal is to collect wind and weather data to determine if the proposed sites are suitable for a potential wind turbine project. The following summarizes the basis for our support of CCP's special use permit proposal:

- The Colorado Brownfields Foundation fully supports the intent of Executive Order 13212, dated May 18, 2001, which essentially directs federal government agencies to expedite renewable energy projects.
- The Colorado Brownfields Foundation fully agrees with the testimony provided on July 11, 2006, by Sally Collins, Associate Chief, Forest Service-US Department of Agriculture, before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate. Specifically, I'd like to point out the following highlights of Ms. Collins' testimony:
  - 1. Energy facilities qualify as one of the potential uses of National Forest System Lands (Mining and Minerals Policy Act and Forest Service Manual 2802).

- 2. The Forest Service completed a Memorandum of Understanding (under Section 365) to improve energy permit coordination on Federal lands and assign agency personnel to pilot project offices.
- 3. Ms. Collins concluding statement that the Forest Service is firmly committed to the development of renewable energy sources on National Forest System lands.
- The Colorado Brownfields Foundation supports CCP's Special Use Permit request for the placement of meteorological (MET) towers on National Forest System lands to allow the gathering of wind data.
- The Colorado Brownfields Foundation supports CCP's Special Use Permit request for the improvement and upgrade of specific access roads, traversing across National Forest System lands, in order to provide safe access to private property and renewable energy resource development sites.
- The Colorado Brownfields Foundation supports Resolution No. 08-34, adopted on March 12, 2008, by the Board of Clear Creek County Commissioners, to achieve 1 GW of renewable energy and power offsets by 2018 and agrees that it is imperative that the USDA Forest Service participate as an active partner in making the Clear Creek County renewable energy goal a reality.
- The Colorado Brownfields Foundation supports CCP's commitment to putting into action the Environmental Protection Agency's 'Brownfields to Brightfields' initiative by focusing their development on blighted mine lands in Clear Creek County for remediation and reuse in the form of renewable energy generation sites.
- The Colorado Brownfields Foundation supports the Clear Creek County regional initiative to support the State of Colorado in reaching their renewable energy and carbon offset goals.

Sincerely,

Jesse D. Silverstein, Executive Director Colorado Brownfields Foundation

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