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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 National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland
2150 Centre Avenue, Bldg. E
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8119

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CLEAR CREEK POWER, LLC SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Dear Ms. Mickley and Ms. Moncrief,

The Clear Creek Watershed Foundation supports Clear Creek Power, LLC's (CCP) Special Use Permit application submittal to the USDA Forest Service for the placement of meteorological (MET) towers on National Forest System lands. The permit would allow for the construction of a meteorological sampling site and use of Cascade Creek Road in Clear Creek County. The intent of their project is to collect wind and weather data to determine if their proposed sites are suitable for a potential wind turbine project. In order to provide safe access to private property and renewable energy resource development sites, this project could potentially lead to the improvement and upgrade of related access roads which traverse across National Forest System lands.

The following documents summarize the basis for our support of CCP's Special Use Permit request:

- Executive Order 13212, dated May 18, 2001, which essentially directs federal government agencies to expedite renewable energy projects.
- 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, 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 is firmly committed to the development of renewable energy sources on National Forest System lands.
3. Memorandum of Understanding, Section 365, improves energy permit coordination on Federal lands and which assigns agency personnel to pilot project offices.

The Clear Creek Watershed Foundation supports the development of renewable energy resources, such as wind and solar, on National Forest System lands; specifically the construction and operation of wind turbines by private entities for the development and transmission of known renewable energy resources in Clear Creek County. The Clear Creek County regional renewable energy initiative (Resolution No. 08-34, adopted on March 12, 2008 by the Board of Clear Creek County Commissioners) sets a goal to achieve 1 GW of renewable energy and power offsets by 2018, and supports the State of Colorado in reaching its renewable energy and carbon offset goals. We believe that it is imperative for the USDA Forest Service to participate as a proactive partner in making the Clear Creek County 2018 renewable energy goal a reality.

CCP's commitment to such projects also puts into action the Environmental Protection Agency's *Brownfields to Brightfields* initiative by focusing on remediating blighted mine lands in Clear Creek County and subsequent development and reuse in the form of renewable energy generation sites.

Therefore, the above information justifies the issuance of CCP's requested Special Use Permit.

Sincerely,



Ed Rapp, P.E.
President, Clear Creek Watershed Foundation

EGR:cmc

cc: Clear Creek Power, LLC
