

STATE OF COLORADO

GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE

1580 Logan St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80203-1625
Phone: (303) 866-2100
Fax: (303) 866-2930
geo@state.co.us
www.state.co.us



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Tom Plant
Director

October 16, 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 Renewable Energy on Forest Service Managed Land

Dear Ms. Mickley and Ms. Moncrief,

The Governor's Energy Office (GEO) is, respectfully, submitting this letter of support for the development of renewable energy on forest service managed lands. Specifically, you have requests for 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. This activity would require gathering data for a minimum of one year to determine the viability of the potential wind site. The following summarizes the basis for our support of CCP's special use permit proposal:

- The GEO fully supports Executive Order 13212, dated May 18, 2001, which essentially directs federal government agencies to expedite renewable energy projects.
- The GEO fully supports 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, 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 GEO supports CCP's Special Use Permit application submittal to the USDA Forest Service for the placement of meteorological (MET) towers on National Forest System lands to allow the gathering of wind data.
 - The GEO fully supports the development of renewable energy resources, such as wind and solar, on National Forest System lands if the wind and solar resource prove to be economically developable.
 - The GEO fully 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.
 - The GEO knows that it will require all local, county and federal agencies such as the USDA Forest Service to participate as an active partner in making the Clear Creek County 2018 renewable energy goal a reality.
 - The GEO fully 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 where feasible.
 - The GEO fully supports the Clear Creek County regional initiative to support the State of Colorado in reaching their renewable energy and carbon offset goals.

Additionally, I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you both to discuss the goals of the Governor's Energy Office and how we can work together to further the state's energy efficiency and renewable energy goals.

Sincerely,

Mona Newton, Central Regional Representative
Governor's Energy Office
303.809.0379
Mona.Newton@state.co.us

Cc: Clear Creek Board of County Commissioners,
Sarah Kaminski, Clear Creek Power, LLC