



CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301

City Hall (775) 289-2430

Fax (775) 289-1463

Cityofelynv.gov

March 19, 2021

White Pine Waterpower, LLC
ATTN: Brett Burgess, Permitting Manager
c/o rPlus Hydro, LLC
201 S. Main St., Suite 2000
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

RE: White Pine Pumped Storage Project Greater Sage-Grouse
Lek and Habitat Study
SENT VIA EMAIL AS REQUESTED

Dear Mr. Burgess:

The following comment on the White Pine Pumped Storage Project Greater Sage-Grouse Lek and Habitat Study was approved by the Ely City Council at a special meeting held March 19, 2021:

“First and foremost, it is the City of Ely’s position there needs to be public meetings to discuss and describe this project to the masses and not just to local government officials. The public has a right to be fully educated about this proposal.

A presentation was given to the City Council on January 28, 2021 requesting the City to consider a Memorandum of Agreement, which was Discussion Only and no action was taken as to if the City would consider agreeing to the relocating 5 miles of rail track; talks are ongoing between the City’s legal counsel and *rPlusHydro*.

The Mayor and City Council Members took an oath to serve the citizens and protect the assets of the City of Ely. The rail line is the only asset the City and Nevada Northern Railway has in the White Pine Pump Hydro Project proposal, but the total project could have a major impact on the citizens of the City of Ely. Folks live in this area for the beauty of the mountains, valleys, ability to camp, hike, hunt, and fish right out our back door. The Mayor and City Council have a sworn duty to do what the people who elected them want them to do. **The public needs to be made aware of what is being proposed.**

Regarding the Sage Grouse study, many local sportsmen and sportswomen pursue the Sage Grouse in the Duck Creek Basin. The best chance of harvesting this bird is on the west side of this Basin in very

The City of Ely is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

close proximity to where the Upper Reservoir will be constructed. The construction of the Upper Reservoir and access road will destroy habitat this species needs to survive. When winter arrives in the high elevations of Duck Creek, the snowfall forces the Sage Grouse to relocate or migrate to Steptoe Valley to ride out the winter months. Spring weather, in return, will trigger the birds to migrate back to the higher elevations of the Duck Creek Basin. The destruction of their habitat in Duck Creek Basin will most likely start the end of Sage Grouse in Duck Creek Basin as we know it today.

The Sage Grouse is a habitat sensitive species and there has been enormous amount of time and money put forth towards to ensure their existence. The City of Ely requests *rPlusHydro* keep this in mind as they continue their studies on this project.

In closing, please become more transparent to our citizens, who are all stakeholders, and have Public Hearings for this project.”

Nathan Robertson, Mayor

Ernie Flangas, Council Seat 1

Kurt Carson, Council Seat 2

Ed Spear, Council Seat 3

Jim Alworth, Council Seat 4

Michelle Beecher, Council Seat 5