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April 15, 2015

Via U.S. Postal Service to Distribution List

**Subject: Preliminary Draft Hydrology and Streamflow Assessment Study Report for the Peabody Trout Creek Reservoir Project (FERC Project No. P-14446)**

Dear Interested Party:

Peabody Trout Creek Reservoir, LLC (PTCR) is applying for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydropower license for a proposed multi-purpose water storage project in Routt County, Colorado, the Peabody Trout Creek Reservoir Project (Project). The proposed Project is located approximately 15 miles southwest of Steamboat Springs, Colorado. As presently proposed, the Project would include a proposed dam and reservoir on Trout Creek, a tributary to the Yampa River, which would have a surface area of approximately 385 acres and a reservoir volume of approximately 11,720 acre-feet. Water stored in the reservoir would be used to generate hydropower expected to average approximately 756,000 kilowatt hours per year. Additionally, the reservoir would support residential development, recreation, and fish habitat, as well as provide a source of supply for water to support Peabody's mining operations in northwest Colorado.

Please find enclosed a preliminary draft of the Hydrology and Streamflow Assessment Study Report for the Project. Pursuant to 18 Code of Federal Regulations Section 5.11, PTCR filed a Proposed Study Plan for the Project with FERC. The Hydrology and Streamflow Assessment Study is being carried out in accordance with Section 3.5 of PTCR's Revised Study Plan (dated May 17, 2013), which FERC approved on June 11, 2013. The enclosed preliminary draft report is being released to PTCR's Stakeholder Distribution List for a 30-day review and comment period on the first phase of this study. The purpose of the first phase of the study is to use measured streamflow data collected at the proposed Project site over the last year to verify the reasonableness of the prior methodology used to estimate natural flows in Trout Creek and to adjust that methodology and the Colorado Decision Support System (CDSS) Yampa Model, if necessary.

Subsequent phases of this study will include using the CDSS Yampa Model, adjusted as appropriate, to simulate operations of the proposed Project to estimate streamflows downstream of the reservoir in Trout Creek and the Yampa River. Simulated streamflows with and without the Project on-line will be used to determine Project-related depletions including evaporative depletions, and to produce flow and reservoir elevation-duration curves. Simulated pre- and post-Project daily streamflows will also be used to inform other Project studies and analyses. The enclosed preliminary draft study report will later be revised to include the results of subsequent phases of this study after modeling of the proposed Project is complete. At this time, we are requesting your review and comment on the proposed methodology, the first phase of the study.



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To have your comments on the enclosed report considered for current and future phases of the Hydrology and Streamflow Assessment Study, please submit your comments/feedback by **Friday, May 15, 2015**, so that ample time for any follow-up contact is allowed. Please submit your comments via U.S. mail, e-mail, or by phone to:

Jody Glennon  
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PTCR believes that an open and inclusive application development process provides the best outcome for licensing. We appreciate your interest in the Project and look forward to collaborating with you. If you have any questions about this request, please contact me at 970-384-4738 or via e-mail at [David.Merritt@AECOM.com](mailto:David.Merritt@AECOM.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David H. Merritt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a star-like flourish at the end.

David H. Merritt, PE, D AAWRE  
Principal Water Resources Consultant  
PTCR Environmental Project Manager

cc: Attached Stakeholder Distribution List

*Enclosure: Hydrology and Streamflow Assessment Study Report*

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