

# Uranium Watch – Utah Bulletin

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## ◇ **Grand County Council Votes to Protest Withdrawal of Water for Nuclear Reactor in Green River**

At their October 6, 2009, meeting the Grand County Council voted (4-3) to protest an appropriation of water from the Green River for the Blue Castle Holdings Inc. (formerly Transition Power Development LLC) proposed nuclear reactor, a few miles west of the City of Green River. Grand County has an interest in the proposed nuclear reactor near Green River and in the withdrawal of a total of 53,600 acre-feet (approximately 47,818,306 gallons per day or 74 cubic feet per second) of water from the Green River:

- A nuclear reactor would impact the agricultural economy of Grand County. Nuclear reactors release water vapor in order to cool the reactor. The vapor contains radionuclides and other constituents that can impact grazing land, croplands, gardens, and animal and human health. A major radiological release would be devastating.
- The withdrawal of water would have a negative impact on commercial and non-commercial river recreation in times of drought and times of low river-flows. Recreation is an important contributor to the economies of Green River and Grand County.
- The withdrawal of water would impact endangered species in the Green River. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service believe that the Green River is the place where endangered fish have the best chance to recover and where threatened species can also benefit.
- A nuclear power plant would have to be licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC requires emergency response planning in the vicinity of nuclear reactors. Grand County is in the plume exposure pathway (10-mile radius) and ingestion pathway (50 mile radius) Emergency Planning Zones for the proposed nuclear reactor.
- Grand County would need to be involved in the emergency planning and in the development of the Environmental Impact Statement for the project.

## ◇ **Protests Due October 14 – San Juan County Water Conservancy District Application for Water for Nuclear Reactor**

The San Juan Water Conservancy District filed a Change Application for 24,000 acre-feet of water from the Green River for the Blue Castle Holdings Inc. (formerly Transition Power Development LLC) proposed nuclear power reactor in Green River, Utah. The proposed changes to Water Right 09-492 are to the point of diversion, place of use, nature of use, and for reservoir storage of the water. Protests and hearing requests due October 14, 2009, by 6 p.m.

Mail to Kent L. Jones, State Engineer, P.O. Box 146300, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6300.

Fax to 801-538-7467.

E-mail to [kellyhorne@utah.gov](mailto:kellyhorne@utah.gov).

Fax or e-mail filings must be followed by a paper copy in the mail. There is now a filing fee of \$15.00, and checks should be made out to the Division of Water Rights.

[www.uraniumwatch.org](http://www.uraniumwatch.org) | [info@uraniumwatch.org](mailto:info@uraniumwatch.org)

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Additional Information:

- Uranium Watch: <http://www.uraniumwatch.org/transitionpower.htm>
- Water Right 09-462: <http://waterrights.utah.gov/cblapps/wrprint.exe?wrnum=09-462>

**◆ Division of Water Rights and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Present Information Related to Withdrawal of Water for Nuclear Power**

The Division of Water Rights (DWR) held public meetings in Price, Green River, and Moab in late September to present information about new water rights legislation, water availability in the Upper Colorado River Basin, and management of endangered fish species in the Upper Basin. Important information was presented relating to the withdrawal of water for the proposed reactor. These include impacts to endangered species, availability of water, and the transfer of water rights upstream. Currently, water in the Upper Basin is over allocated. That means that more water has been allocated than Utah will be able to withdraw if all the allocated water is used. Utah's Upper Colorado River apportionment is 1,369,000 acre-feet (AF); the current depletion is 1,007,500 AF, leaving 361,500 AF that are not being used. However, the DWR has approved 493,100 AF that have not been developed, including the 53,600 AF leased to Blue Castle Holdings Inc. Approximately 185,000 AF are senior water rights that are due the Navajo Nation and Ute Tribe. The power point presentations are posted on the DWR website: <http://www.waterrights.utah.gov/meetinfo/m20090930/default.htm>

**◆ Transition Power Development Changes Name to Blue Castle Holdings Inc.**

According to a September 28, 2009, news release, Transition Power Development LLC will consolidate its activity into Blue Castle Holdings Inc (BHC), a Utah based company "reducing risk of new power resources for the electric utilities": <http://www.bluecastleproject.com/>

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