

To: Kent L. Jones  
State Engineer  
Division of Water Rights  
P.O. Box 146300  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6300

From: Tim Vetere  
PO Box 404  
Green River, UT 84525

89-74 a35402  
09-462 a35874

*an original to this document has not been received*

Dear Mr. Jones-

My name is Tim Vetere. I have lived in Green River for 52 years. My family is a 3rd generation farming family. My father's dad came from Italy in the 1900s, cleared the land he bought, and raised 11 kids that helped grow melons. My father worked at the missile base and farmed melons in 1958. He opened a stand in Green River and we have had that stand open ever since. My younger brother and I have raised melons all the time growing up, and today it is how we make our living, raising melons and cattle.

Today, we pull water off the dam in the East Side Ditch and two miles down stream we have an electric motor on the river. This diversion point is the one where they pulled water out of the river for the orchards in Green River in 1890. We can pump 90 cfs of water at our points of diversion.

In 1992 I started looking for water so I could stay in the farming business. In 1972, the State said there was no more water available. They said I had to find an old water right (paper water). I found Wayne County had water and made a deal to change the point of diversion to Green River. This took 5 years and about \$250,000 plus all of my time. On East Side Ditch we enlarged the ditch, put in three 450hp motors and built a reservoir and some power lines at a cost of about \$275,000. The pump station on the river was about \$450,000 for the infrastructure. This well pulls 35,000 gallons a minute out of the river. The State said I had to prove my water up by Jan 2010, or they were going to take it.

This farm I am planning will be 10,000 acres and will raise 80,000 ton of hay. It will raise melons, field corn, potatoes, and sweet corn. This farm will feed thousands of people. We took ground that was giving the state 167.00 dollars a year and now we pay them thousands to the school trust land and to private ground that was worth \$50.00 acre to \$4000.00 acre so that Grand and Emery counties receive a lot of tax money from my work.

This farm will generate around 8 to 10 million in gross sales. This farm will be 10,000 acres, maybe more by 2011 or 2012. It will directly employ 10 to 35 people on the farm, and there will 600 to 700 trucks in and out Green River just for the farm.

Please understand this: if my farm goes without water for 12 hours, it will cost us the crop. The entire crop. The investment in this crop cost me between \$750.00 to \$2000.00 an acre. This is just to plant;

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we have to make more then that to make any profit.

If we spend 30 million dollars to put the farm in, we have to have all the water we have a right to in the river. When we are pumping full water, it will be 40 to 50 thousand gallons a minute. Our cost to plant is about 6 to 7 million dollars per year on this 10,000 acre farm. We have to make that money back before we can turn a profit.

We have had a hard time getting water off the dam the last five years, and we need more work on the dam to stop the water upstream so we can get our water. This will make it hard to get water downstream if the river drops in the middle of the summer. In one day, we could lose millions of dollars. We have had to dig our suction to get water out of the river because it was to low.

The way the Flaming Gorge Dam is run, it sends silt down the river which makes it hard on our pumps. Then they shut the water down to a normal flow and sometimes it makes it hard to get water.

The State Water Board came down one month before the nuclear plant people came. The State told us the upper Colorado was going to be more regulated in the future. Right now the Upper Colorado is the only one not regulated very much. They are going to make it harder for us farmers to get our water out of the river because of the endangered fish. The endangered fish has cost us thousands of dollars for purchase and installations of screens, and this means it costs more to pump water.

The State has already taken 12,880 a.f. of water from Gunnison Butte. We bought ground and water but the state took the water anyway, and gave it Cedar City.

On our farm on the west side on the river, we farm 360 acres and we have had problems with the river being too low to get our water. We have one farm of 80 acres we have to water 12 rows at a time so we can get water. It takes us 35 days to water this 80 acres one time. We can't risk hay or corn we have to plant spring or fall crops, but if we have all our water we can water this 80 acres in 3 days.

Usually, the river is about 6 feet deep but in the summer it will gets to 1 1/2 to 2 feet deep. At his depth, it becomes hard to divert our share.

If the nuclear power plant goes in, I don't know if people will buy my watermelons or not. I have already heard jokes about eating out melons and then glowing in the dark. If the public doesn't buy my melons one year, I stand a chance of going broke. There are markets I want to sell to that won't buy if my crops are near a nuclear plant. If I can't use my water, it will cost me millions. The power plant will only be paying 1 million a year for their water. This might cost me 10 million dollars and I am a little guy and this will break me. I have a \$30 million debt. The power plant won't pay me that much for my water, and my farms could go under.

I am aware that state laws do not allow transfers of water which interfere with the most beneficial use of the water, impair the ability of water rights users, or interfere with agriculture. A nuclear power plant

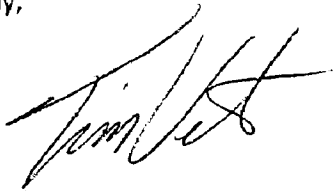
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would do all of these things and would hurt our operations. Farms like mine are the backbone of the community and the region. I was at the hearing in Green River on January 12<sup>th</sup>. I know, despite what the nuclear power developers claimed, their plans will hurt my farms. I understand you can approve or deny these water right changes, and I ask that you follow the law and deny them. This would protect farmers like me and my family. If a nuclear power plant goes in, Green River Melons will be gone, possibly forever.

Sincerely,



Tim Vetere

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# Kelly Horne - Green River Power

**From:** Tim Vetere <greenriverfarms@hotmail.com>  
**To:** <kellyhorne@utah.gov>  
**Date:** 2/28/2010 4:40 PM  
**Subject:** Green River Power

*Electronic Copy*

*Tim Vetere  
 PO Box 404  
 Green River, UT 84525*

*89-74 235402  
 09-462 235874*

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3. In 1992 I started looking for water so I could stay in the farming business. The state said in 1972 there was no more water. They said I had to find an old water right (paper water). I found Wayne County had water and made a deal to change the point of diversion to Green River. This took 5 years and about 250,000 plus all for my time. On East Side Ditch we enlarged the ditch put in 3, 450hp motors and built a reservoir and some power lines at a cost of about 275,000. The pump station on the river was about 450,000 for the infrastructure. This well pull 35,000 gallons a minute out of the river. The state said I had to prove my water up by Jan 2010 or they were going to take it.

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Tim Vetere

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