


# DAMS WOULD HURT the Little Colorado River Above the Confluence



A Phoenix company, **Pumped Hydro Storage LLC**, owned by **Steve Irwin and Justin Rundle**, applied for preliminary permits to conduct studies for three years before starting the application process to build dams on the Little Colorado River for hydroelectric power.

The proposed dams would be built inside a Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife biological preserve within the Little Colorado River Navajo Tribal Park. This tract of land is also located within the Bodaway-Gap and Cameron chapters of the Navajo Nation.

## WHAT WOULD THE PROJECT DO?

- Dam the Little Colorado River, upstream of the Confluence.
- Pump millions of gallons of water out of the river to two storage reservoirs above the dams.
- Build an access tunnel to the Little Colorado River.
- Generate electricity to help meet periods of peak demand from distant cities.

## WHAT WOULD BE THE CONSEQUENCES?

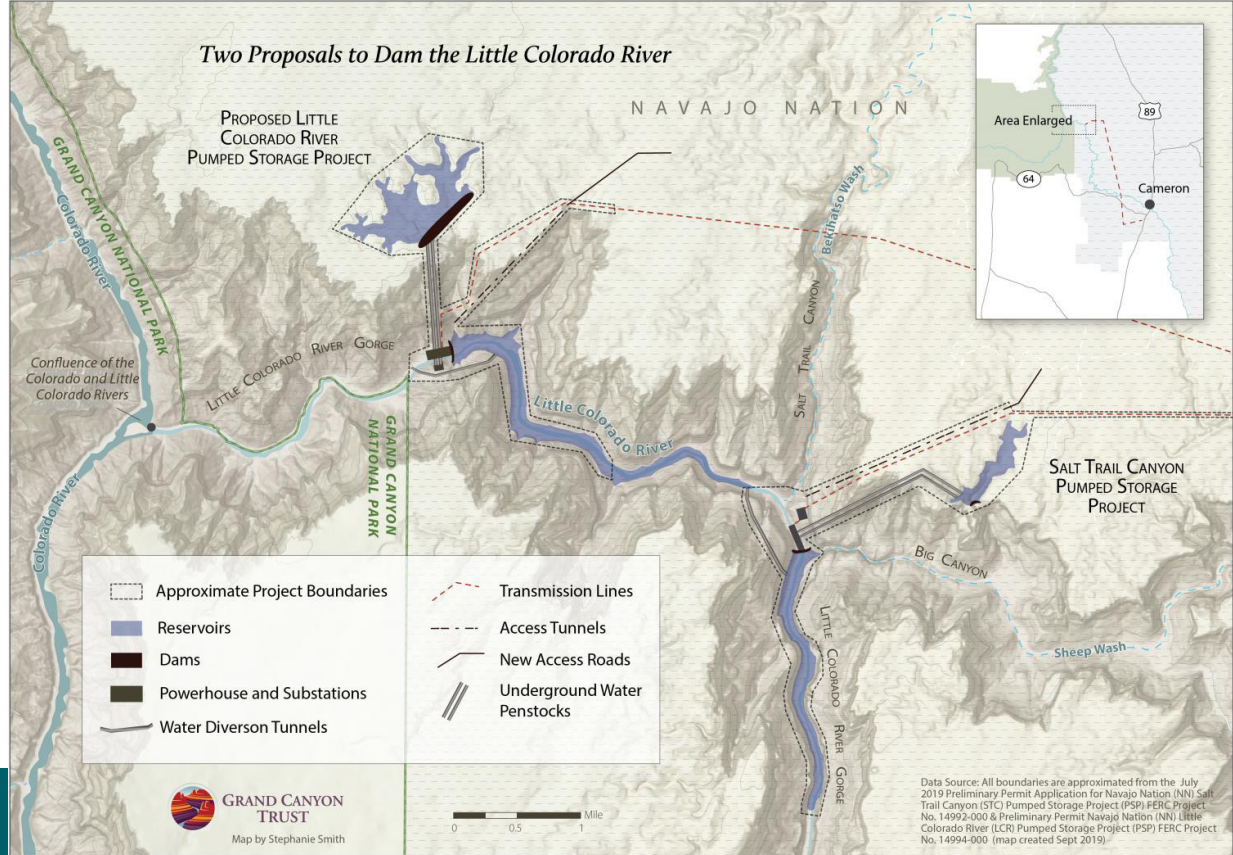
- **The Little Colorado River would lose its turquoise color** because the dams would go between Blue Springs and the Confluence, the place where the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River come together.
- **Sacred places would be hurt.** Traditional, cultural, historic, and religious spaces along the river would be affected by flooding, noise, traffic, and even tourists.
- **Less water in the river.** More water would be lost to evaporation from the reservoirs.
- **Danger for fish.** Fish like the endangered humpback chub would lose their habitat.
- **Noise, traffic, electric lines, easy access for tourists would change the river forever.** Loud pumps and generators and massive steel towers with high-voltage electric lines would transform this area. It would no longer be a peaceful place for prayer, respect, and reflection.

## WHO PROFITS, WHO LOSES?

Private investors would profit from the multi-billion-dollar projects, while the river, the Confluence, the land, animals, and local land users all lose.

## WHAT DOES THE LOCAL NAVAJO NATION CHAPTER GOVERNMENT SAY?

On November 20, 2019, the Cameron Chapter of the Navajo Nation passed a unanimous resolution (36 – 0) opposing the projects.



## POSITION OF THE NAVAJO NATION

***"The Navajo Nation opposes the projects on various grounds, including but not limited to:***

- 1** *The Applicant has not engaged in meaningful consultation with the Navajo Nation or its political subdivisions, including the local Chapters that where the Project would be located.*
- 2** *The Applicant did not seek the consent of the Navajo Nation or procure the required clearances and permits for construction of the Project.*
- 3** *The Project may adversely impact the use of these lands by the Navajo Nation and its members.*
- 4** *The Project may adversely impact the water rights of the Navajo Nation or the use of the waters of the Little Colorado River system and source.*
- 5** *The Project may adversely impact the fish and wildlife resources of the Navajo Nation, including the habitat for the Humpback Chub.*
- 6** *The Project may adversely impact the cultural resources of the Navajo Nation, including the Traditional Cultural Properties of the Confluence and Blue Springs."*

## POSITION OF THE HOPI TRIBE

***"Any development within the area of the Confluence will forever compromise the spiritual integrity of this Sacred Place....This proposed development and location is simply unacceptable to Hopi religious leaders, practitioners and the Hopi people as it will significantly and forever adversely impact Hopi sacred places."***

—Comments submitted by the Hopi Tribe

## POSITION OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

***"... the preliminary permit application lists only one tribe, the Navajo Nation. There are at least ten other tribes that may be affected. In addition to the Navajo Nation, these include, but are not limited to, the Havasupai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians, Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Yavapai Apache Nation, and the Pueblo of Zuni. All of these tribes have aboriginal and current connections to the project area. The LCR is an important and sacred place to all of the aforementioned tribes and has been since time immemorial."***

—Comments submitted by the U.S. Department of the Interior

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