

RESERVED WATER RIGHTS COMPACT COMMISSION



STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

CHRIS D. TWEETEN, CHAIRMAN

STATE OF MONTANA

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Dorothy Bradley
Gene Etchart
Rep. Daniel Salomon

Senator Dick Barrett
Mark DeBryker
Richard Kirn
Rep. Kathleen Williams

August 21, 2013

RE: Report on the Proposed CSKT – Montana Compact

Dear Water Policy Interim Committee Chairman and Members,

As directed by Governor Bullock in his May 3, 2013 Veto letter of Senate Bill 265, the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission has solicited input from concerned parties to address their concerns related to the proposed CSKT-Montana Water Rights Settlement. As you are aware, the proposed CSKT-Montana Water Rights Settlement was introduced as HB 629 during Montana's 2013 legislative session.

In response to Governor Bullock's direction, the Commission solicited input from parties in a June 4, 2013 letter. The Commission is in review of written responses, as well as recorded legislative testimony. Timely filed comments have been posted on the RWRCC's website and may be viewed at: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/rwrcc/Compacts/CSKT/Default.asp>. All comments received as of this date will be reviewed and incorporated into the response portion of the Report. The late comments will be posted with the others prior to September 10.

The RWRCC's comprehensive report is currently under internal review. A draft will be routed to the full RWRCC for approval prior to submittal to WPIC. As you know, the Commission has set a target of early September for completion of the report. We are currently on track to hit that target. Assuming we encounter no unforeseen obstacles, we will submit the report to Jason Mohr for distribution to WPIC prior to September 10th.

The Commission has been fully occupied in developing this report, but does intend to provide a response to Chairman Vincent's letter and request for memoranda as soon as is feasible.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Arne Wick in blue ink.

Arne Wick
RWRCC, Program Manager
444-5700
awick@mt.gov

cc: Governor Bullock (Tim Baker, Andy Huff)