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January 3, 2007

Commissioner Joseph T. Kelliher
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Unnecessary LEAPS Project at Lake Elsinore

Dear Commissioner Kelliher:

As a commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, I want to encourage you to oppose the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pump Storage (LEAPS) project in Riverside County, California. The project will not produce any additional electricity and will cause the following irreversible and high risk impacts:

- Destruction of two pristine canyons on the Cleveland National Forest.
- High fire risks from high-voltage power transmission lines and unacceptable danger to firefighters working near them. Eight firefighters died in Decker Canyon in August 1959 in the area proposed for the transmission line.
- High costs, to meet earthquake standards, of building power equipment at the base of the mountain located in the Elsinore Fault line.
- Deterioration of Lake Elsinore's shoreline, with daily water level fluctuations.
- Reduced open space and hiking for more than 3 million people, who live within an hour's drive of those canyons
- Omission of energy conservation as a policy and public campaign to reduce peak power demand.
- Negative economic projections, with unreasonably high energy rate projections and long payback period.

These costs and impacts are far too high, to justify the destruction of some of the most natural and beautiful lands enjoyed by the 19 million people in southern California so that a few investors can profit and a few businesses and individuals can pay less for peak power.

Sincerely,



ANNE S. FEGE, Ph.D.
And Retired Forest Supervisor, Cleveland National Forest