



LAKE POWELL PIPELINE:

**UNSUSTAINABLE, UNNECESSARY,
EXPENSIVE, AND CONTRARY TO LAW**

WHAT IS THE LAKE POWELL PIPELINE?

The Lake Powell Pipeline is a proposed multi-billion dollar, 140 mile pipeline project that would pump up to 86,000 acre-feet of water annually out of the Colorado River to meet claimed future development needs in Washington County in Southwest Utah.

The pipeline project stalled after ten years before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Then, in 2020 the Bureau of Reclamation under the Trump administration fast-tracked a Draft Environmental Impact statement designating the pipeline as the preferred alternative to addressing Washington County's future water needs.

The BOR's fast-track EIS was met with public outcry due to BOR's decision to ignore FERC and the Army Corps of Engineers' recommendations to evaluate as an "action alternative" a much lower-cost conservation-based approach to meeting future water needs, as well as BOR's failure to adequately consider the impact of the pipeline on Colorado River water supplies, risk to other water users, and Native American tribal resources.

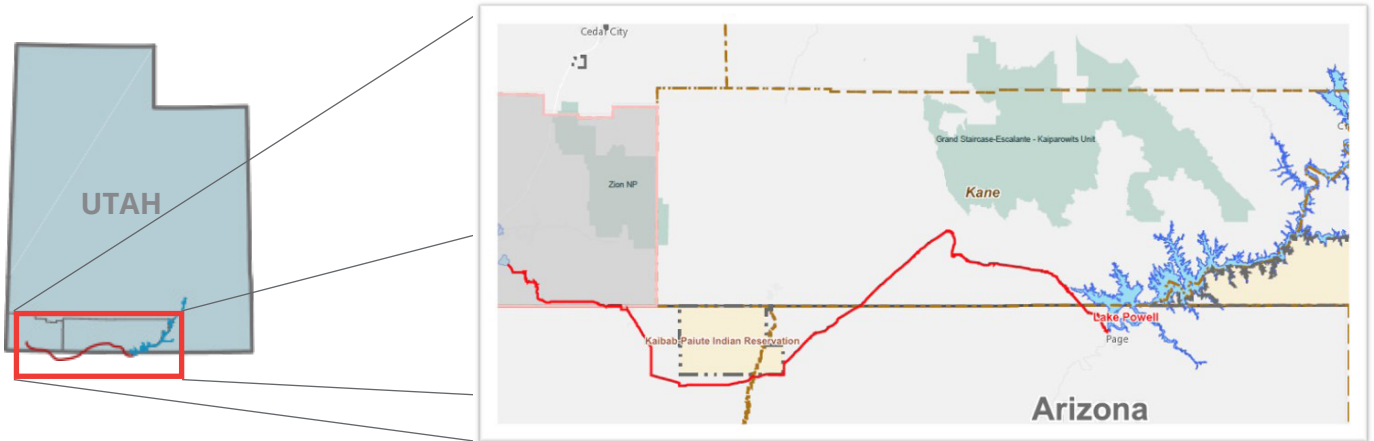
Further, the draft EIS failed to address the thorny legal issues under the Colorado River Compact created by the pipeline's proposed Colorado River upper basin to lower basin water transfer. This failure led the six other Colorado River Basin States—Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming—to submit a letter opposing BOR and Utah moving forward with the pipeline.

In response to this unified opposition, Utah in September 2020 requested BOR temporarily withdraw the DEIS from consideration. However, six months later Utah created a new Colorado River Authority, an entity authorized to act with limited public oversight, to attempt to move the pipeline forward.

**THE PIPELINE SHOULD NOT
MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT
FEDERAL SCRUTINY**



THE ROUTE...



THE LAKE POWELL PIPELINE IS:

UNSUSTAINABLE

Average flows in the Colorado River – the source of water for the pipeline – have already decreased in flow by 19% from pre-2000 levels, and experts forecast flows to continue to decrease by as much as an additional 20% by mid-century. The pipeline might not provide the water promised, could put millions of Colorado River water users at risk through over-developing water from the River, and would impact the Navajo Nation's effort to develop a similar volume of water from Utah's Colorado River allocation.

EXPENSIVE

The DEIS projects the immediate construction cost of the pipeline as exceeding \$1.8 billion, excluding interest; this is likely three times the cost of conservation-based measures.

UNNECESSARY

Studies by multiple experts demonstrate that per capita water usage in Washington County far exceeds that of other similar localities, and that implementation of modest, widely adopted water conservation and reuse measures can easily and reliably meet the water demands of Washington County's real projected growth.

CONTRARY TO LAW

The Pipeline would result in a transfer of water from the upper Colorado River basin to the lower Colorado River basin. Such a transfer requires Federal Congressional approval to comply with the Colorado River Compact.



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