



RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2025-37

SUPPORTING LINCOLN COUNTY'S OPPOSITION TO THE BARBER SPRINGS PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County, New Mexico have drafted a Resolution formally declaring their opposition to a project by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Barber Springs Pumped Storage Project proposed to be built in Lincoln County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County, New Mexico knew nothing about this project until another New Mexico County inquired about it, subsequent to their Clerk received a nondescript informational release indicating a deadline to file comments, motions to intervene, competing applications, or notices of intent to file competing applications, would be due in less than 60 days; and

WHEREAS, the information released by the FERC describes pumping groundwater into the following new facilities: (1) a 110 foot-high, 5435-foot-long concrete lower dam that would impound a 42 -acre lower reservoir with a storage capacity of 4,500 acre-feet at a water surface elevation of 7,100 feet above mean sea level (msl); (2) a 110-foot-high, 5,525 foot-long concrete upper dam that would impound a 43-acre upper reservoir with a storage capacity of 4,500 acre-feet at a surface elevation of 8,200 feet above msl; (3) a possible spillway for the lower dam with undetermined dimensions; (4) one 6,800-foot-long, 14-foot-diameter steel lined penstock branching into three 150-foot-long, 8 foot-diameter turbine penstocks; (5) a 279-foot-long, 230-foot-wide, 270-foot-high underground concrete powerhouse and substation containing three 187-megawatt Pelton Wheel ternary-pump turbine generator units; (6) three 150-foot-long, 9.1-foot-diameter steel lined tailraces; (7) a mile-long steel well water supply pipeline; (8) a 37-mile-long, 161-kilovolt or a 79-mile long 161 kilovolt transmission line; (9) appurtenant facilities; and

WHEREAS, the FERC claims that their Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings in the release; although in 2024, the FERC passed Rule No. 1977 giving themselves the authority to issue permits to construct or modify electrical facilities in National Interest Electrical



Transmission Corridors (NIETC's) even when these projects are denied by state or local authorities; and

WHEREAS, Rule No. 1977 was developed and implemented after overwhelming public opposition to the NIETC's was received thus making working with local governments and the public unpalatable; the same opposition as is expected with the Barber Springs Pumped Storage project; and

WHEREAS, the scarcity of water in Lincoln County and the region is well known and understood, and continues to limit water intensive development in the region, tapping into these limited resources for the initial commissioning of the project and the necessary recurring makeup water requirements represents a significant threat to the county's citizens and the economy of its people; and

WHEREAS, industrial scale encroachment on private and public property by the incredibly large footprint, part time, intermittent, non-baseload, and non-dispatchable electrical generating infrastructure will interfere with traditional and economically viable activities on public and private land; once again, diminishing or eliminating private property rights of the people whether through eminent domain or other pressures; and

WHEREAS, many of Lincoln County's businesses and citizens are involved in, or otherwise, depend on industries that utilize public and private lands and their resources, including, but not limited to, agricultural crop production, livestock grazing, industry, manufacturing, oil and gas exploration and production, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County perceives this as an add-on project to current wind turbine installations and another attempt to salvage a flawed effort to convert from conventional, full time, base load, and dispatchable electric power to part time, intermittent non-dispatchable "green energy", ultimately requiring substantially higher costs for consumers, but big gains for "green" energy brokers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Roosevelt County formally supports Lincoln County's opposition to the Barber Springs Pumped Storage Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Roosevelt County Board of Commissioners will submit comments in opposition to this proposed project and permitting application, and call upon state officials, municipalities, soil and water conservation districts, private citizens and private industry to do the same.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 18th day of November, 2025 by the Roosevelt County Board of Commissioners in an open meeting in Portales, New Mexico.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

ATTEST:

Mandi Park
Mandi Park, County Clerk



Tina Dixon

Tina Dixon, Chair – District IV

Voted Yes No Abstained

Roy Lee Criswell

Roy Lee Criswell, Vice Chair – District III

Voted Yes No Abstained

Paul Grider

Paul Grider – District V

Voted Yes No Abstained

Malin Parker

Malin Parker – District II

Voted Yes No Abstained

Fabian Munoz

Fabian Munoz – District I

Voted Yes No Abstained

