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PRESS RELEASE

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PacifiCorp Slams New Dam on Bear River

The proposed hydropower project on the Oneida Narrows of the Bear River may have suffered a fatal blow.

In a motion filed Tuesday with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, PacifiCorp Energy asks the commission to dismiss the license application and cancel the preliminary permit of the Twin Lakes Canal Company for the Bear River Narrows Hydroelectric Project.

“Idaho Rivers United strongly supports PacifiCorp’s motion and commends their efforts to protect the ecological health of one of the last publicly accessible, free-flowing sections of the Bear River,” said Kevin Lewis, Conservation Director of Idaho Rivers United.

PacifiCorp’s motion is centered on the impacts the proposed project would have on PacifiCorp’s current operations and the negative effects to restoration efforts now underway on the river as a result of the previous relicensing settlement agreement between PacifiCorp, Idaho Rivers United, other environmental organizations, the state of Idaho and federal agencies.

The Bear River Settlement, signed in 2003, created a restoration program that covers a large portion of the Bear River watershed in Idaho. To date, millions of dollars have been spent to improve water quality, restore Bonneville Cutthroat Trout and improve recreational opportunities on the Bear River. Construction of the proposed project would have derailed the settlement agreement, forced the re-opening of the existing PacifiCorp license and, quite possibly, federal listing of the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout.

Idaho Rivers United is a statewide river conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring Idaho’s rivers. For more information please contact Kevin Lewis at (208) 343-7481 or visit www.idahorivers.org.