

Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
May 15, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Oversight Hearing on
“U.S. Department of the Interior Budget and Policy Priorities for FY 2020.”

Questions from Rep. Neguse for Secretary David Bernhardt, U.S. Department of the Interior

1. The Department of the Interior’s proposed reorganization would move Glen Canyon Dam, Lake Powell, and Lee Ferry from the current Upper Colorado Region to the new Lower Colorado Basin Region. This change would ignore the Colorado River Compact of 1922 which divided the Upper Basin from the Lower Basin at Lee Ferry. The four Upper Colorado River Basin states have expressed concern over this change given the crucial nature of Glen Canyon Dam and Lee Ferry—including the Paria River—to the administration of the Colorado River (September 19, 2018 letter from the Upper Colorado River Commissioners). The states have asked Interior to revise the proposed regional boundary, citing institutional knowledge within Upper Colorado region among other concerns.
 - a. Does the Department of the Interior intend to revise the regional boundary so that Lee Ferry, Glen Canyon Dam, and Lake Powell will remain a part of the Upper Colorado region?