

VI. Water / Irrigation Districts

Introduction

Beyond general expressions of approval or disapproval and support or nonsupport for the project, water districts' comments on the DEIS can be summarized in general in the areas below.

Issues Raised

- Nearly one-half of the comments concerned potential water quality degradation and mitigation.
- Also of concern were the calculation of diversions, water rights, the administration of shortages during drought, and the effects to agriculture and agriculture-related economic factors.
- Slightly fewer concerns centered on limitations of the DEIS' analysis/ review and Low Flow Test, NEPA compliance, alternatives formulation, Basin-wide planning and cumulative impacts, flexibility in interim operations, and others.

Districts Included in this Section

Bloomfield Irrigation District
Hammond Conservancy District
San Juan County Agriculture Water Users
West Hammond Domestic Water Association



October 23rd, 2002

Ken Beck
Bureau of Reclamation
Western Colorado Area Office
835 East Second Avenue, Suite 400
Durango, Colorado 81301

Dear Mr. Beck:
It is the position of the Bloomfield Irrigation District that the data collected for the Draft EIS from the Low flow test is flawed to say the least.

The Low Flow test was conducted under **abnormal** conditions i.e.,

1. Between Monday July 9th, and Wednesday July 11th, the area received over ½ inch of rain. This is a considerable amount for such a short time. Not typical for this time of year. Sluice gates had to be opened to accommodate the excess water.
2. Irrigators were not watering due in part to the rain received, also the second cutting of hay had already been cut awaiting to be harvested.
3. Temperatures were considerably lower due to the moisture. In a normal year temperatures would be in excess of 90 degrees, irrigators would be watering
4. The test scheduled for 10-14 days was then cut short. The District feel's this was due to the favorable conditions for the EIS. Had the test been allowed to continue as scheduled the outcome would have been significantly different.

|| 1

WD1-1 Please see the response to General Comment 22 which discusses the Summer Low Flow Test.

Therefore the Bloomfield Irrigation District ask that a second test be conducted under normal conditions to obtain the accurate information needed or the minimum flow of 500 CFS. be adopted, understanding however that minimum flows may need to be altered in times of severe drought.

|| 2

WD1-2 Please see the response to General Comment 22.

Kindes Regards,

Dr. J. Garey Ritchie, President

JGR/kb
xc: Board Members

HAMMOND CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

790 CR 4990
Bloomfield, NM 87413
505-632-3043

December 2, 2002

US Bureau of Reclamation
Western Colorado Area Office
Southern Division
835 East 2nd Avenue, Suite 300
Durango, CO 81302-0640

Attn: Ken Beck

Re: Comments on Navajo Reservoir Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ken:

Hammond Conservancy District is extremely concerned with the 250/5000 Alternative flow recommendation selected by the Bureau of Reclamation. The 250 cubic feet per second during irrigation season is an exceptionally low amount of flow, therefore we are concerned that the needs of the users on Hammond Project and the river as a whole will be seriously impacted.

Hammond is concerned that the Bureau of Reclamation has obtained inaccurate information from the State of New Mexico on the existing diversion rights between Navajo Reservoir and Farmington. It does not appear that a number of municipal and industrial uses have been accounted for in the draft EIS. The 100 CFS diversion right for Citizens Ditch is for irrigation, it does not include Conoco, El Paso Natural Gas, City of Bloomfield and City of Bloomfield Animas La Plata water. It does not appear that Hammond's Diversion will be adequately met after reviewing all existing diversions. Why was there no consideration for a figure between 300 and 400 CFS on the low flows?

The other issue of concern is how the quality of the water in the river will be maintained with such low flows? Hammond Conservancy District leases water to West Hammond Water Users with a point of diversion just west of the San Juan River bridge at Bloomfield. At 250 CFS it is a concern that there will be water available at the point of diversion during irrigation season, but even greater concern is the quality of water at that point. Also, the cost for the impact of the low flow on the water user association in order to divert water will become very costly as each year there will be the same impacts because of the low/high flows. This is a federally funded program therefore the program should fund the structural modifications or "remedies".

The Hammond Board of Directors respectfully requests that the Bureau of Reclamation protect the water rights of the Hammond Project and other water right users on the San Juan River. We would request that additional research be done before committing to the preferred alternative.

Sincerely,

Myron Crockett
President
Hammond Conservancy District

WD2-1 Please see the responses to General Comments 9, 18a, 20d.

1

WD2-2 Please see the responses to General Comments 23 and 31d.

2

Michael B. Sullivan
San Juan County Agriculture Water Users
 P O Box 1704
 Bloomfield, NM 87413
 505-632-3266

December 2, 2002

US Bureau of Reclamation
 Southern Division
 835 East 2nd Avenue, Suite 300
 Durango, CO 81302-0640

Attn: Mr. Ken Beck

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement Navajo Reservoir Operations

Dear Ken:

Upon reviewing the Bureau of Reclamation Plan to re-operate Navajo Reservoir, there are issues of concern to the San Juan County Agriculture Water Users Association. The 250/5000 Alternative flow is the recommended alternative plan discussed in the draft EIS. This we feel creates instability within the San Juan River system and when there is a demand upon the river we feel that the 250 CFS flows may not be adequate.

The SJCAWU strongly disagrees with the figures used to calculate the diversion requirements for water diversions between Navajo Reservoir and Farmington. We do not believe at this time that the 250 CFS will satisfy all diversion needs as allowed by the 1948 Decree, project waters, permits and other rights established on the San Juan between Navajo and Farmington. When adding these figures we conclude the diversions rates are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1) Bloomfield Irrigation | 110 CFS |
| 2) Hammond Project | 90 CFS |
| 3) Jaquez Ditch | 12.4 CFS |
| 4) La Pampa Ditch | 10.7 CFS |
| 5) Turley-Manzanares Ditch | 6.7 CFS |
| Total | 229.8 CFS |

However, this does not include those rights for industrial and municipal uses as listed in Bloomfield Irrigation District proposed diversion rate increase application to the New Mexico State Engineer (a copy of which is enclosed) that includes permits for Conoco, El Paso Natural Gas Company, City of Bloomfield and City of Bloomfield Animas La Plata water. These additional uses according to the proposed diversion rate increase account for an additional 123.2 CFS.

To further complicate the issue there are some water rights that exist below Navajo Dam that were not a part of the 1948 Decree, although this number is very small it still exists. There are also rights to divert water for domestic supplies by the West Hammond Water Users, Blanco Water Users and Navajo Dam Water Users. When totaling all of the above diversion

WD3-1 Table III-2 in the EIS has been modified to reflect your comments. These modifications recognize a change in the water rights listed in Table III-2 of the DEIS from Navajo Dam to the confluence of the Animas River from 280 to 295 cfs. Reclamation believes that water will be available to meet these water rights via return flows, but some diversion structures may need to be improved.

requirements, the 250 CFS will not satisfy the diversion requirements on the upper San Juan River.

During the Low Flow study the river seemed to hold its own, however this would not be a likely scenario for any length of time with a reduced flow to 250 CFS during the irrigation season. The previous Low Flow study was the beneficiary of public non-awareness that has since surfaced and has realized the importance of this issue and others as well by utilizing the water that is allowed. The Bureau of Reclamation should allow for further review of the draft EIS for Economic and Technical reasons searching for alternative suitable for all landowners and water right users along the San Juan river.

2

WD3-2 Please see the responses to General Comments 9 and 22.

The impacts of both the high and low flows create real and definite problems for municipal and agricultural uses alike; where is the NEPA compliance, where is the impact analysis that gives landowners protection against damages like loss of land during high flows and if there is a loss of crops during low flows, it creates a double edge sword for some ditches. During the low flows, diversions have to be built up to get water and during the high flows they are in turn washed out. The domestic water associations have seen their costs increase due to treatment problems from water that is not meeting the water quality standards or is of low quality.

3

WD3-3 Please see the responses to General Comments 23 and 31d.

It has been the agriculture communities understanding that through an impact analysis that the effects of indirect and direct impacts of land loss would provide an avenue for mitigation assessed through the completion of NEPA compliance. Landowners, domestic water associations and ditches should not have to bear the burden of these costs and effects of a federally funded program without just compensation.

4

WD3-4 Please see the response to General Comment 2.

To further complicate matters, during the summer of 2002 it was proven that the diversions on the San Juan from Navajo Dam to Farmington returned all but a very small amount of water to the river. However, there was a depletion of water that occurred below Farmington creating a failure to reach the 500 CFS benchmark at Shiprock as required by the draft EIS. This raises several questions not addressed in the draft EIS:

5

WD3-5 Please see responses to General Comments 18a and 20d.

- 1) How will the ditches on the reservation be administered?
- 2) Under whose jurisdiction will administration take place?
- 3) If the river is administered by priority, what priority will be assigned to these ditches, as they have no current priority date?
- 4) The draft EIS does not consider the fact that if a release is reduced to that of the in-stream flow right and a sharing of shortages is implemented on behalf of the Navajo Contractors, how will the target of 500 CFS be met if this shortage continues and or full water development occurs in the future and could agricultural water be subject to forfeiture?

It seems that a 7 day summer low flow test may be insufficient to determine the total impacts and by knowing damages caused by the high flow releases along with issues not dealt with in the draft EIS preferred plan, we would encourage additional research before committing to the preferred alternative. We are looking forward to your reply.

6

WD3-6 Please see the response to General Comment 22 which discusses the Summer Low Flow Test.

Michael B Sullivan

Michael B. Sullivan
 President
 San Juan County Agriculture Water Users

WATER/IRRIGATION DISTRICTS - Comments and Responses

DECREED RIGHTS IN 1948 ADJUDICATION, CAUSE 01690 (ECHO DECREE)
(For ditches still in use in 1996)

| ANIMAS RIVER | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| DITCH | ACRES | DIVERSION (cfs) |
| Aztec | 1383.04 | 34.57 |
| Cedar | 340.8 | 8.52 |
| Eledge | 1031.9 | 25.79 |
| also 200 cfs for hydro-electric plant | --- | --- |
| Farmers | 1306.7 | 32.66 |
| Farmers Mutual | 4181.51 | 104.53 |
| Farmington-Echo | 2234.48 | 55.86 |
| Graves-Atteberry | 698.1 | 17.76 |
| Halford | 891.25 | 22.28 |
| Independent | 1787.62 | 63.2 |
| Kello-Blancett | 526.0 | 13.15 |
| Lower Animas | 2118.93 | 56.57 |
| North Farmington | 1187.85 | 43.8 |
| Ralston | 364.2 | 9.2 |
| Ranchmans | 345.3 | 8.63 |
| Sargent | 173.8 | 4.5 |
| Stacey | 483.2 | 12.08 |
| Twin Rocks | 345.0 | 8.62 |
| Willett | 49.1 | 1.61 |
| also 205 cfs for hydro-electric plant | --- | --- |
| Wright-Leggett | 808.76 | 30.72 |

| LA PLATA RIVER | | |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------|
| DITCH | ACRES | DIVERSION (cfs) |
| Cunningham | 720.1 | 12.99 |
| Enterprise | 98.3 | 2.4 |
| Greenhorn | 498.0 | 9.6 |
| Helton | 352.5 | 5.8 |
| Highland Park | 989.7 | 22.65 |
| Hillside-Thomas | 801.0 | 33.9 |
| Jackson | 567.9 | 8.89 |
| La Plata Indian | 554.8 | 14.02 |
| Left Hand | 92.1 | 3.8 |
| McDermott | 633.2 | 11.4 |
| Pickering | 168.1 | 3.16 |
| Pioneer | 157.2 | 3.8 |

| SAN JUAN RIVER | | |
|--|--------|---------------------|
| DITCH | ACRES | DIVERSION (cfs) |
| Citizens (Bloomfield Irrig. District) | 4422.2 | 110.5 |
| Farmers Mutual (a 2nd diversion on San Juan River, but decreed on Animas R.) | --- | --- |
| Hammond Conservancy District (Right established after 1948 decree) | 3900.0 | (90.0 cfs capacity) |
| Jaquez | 498.8 | 12.4 |
| Jewett Valley | 1268.6 | 31.71 |
| La Pampa | 402.9 | 10.07 |
| Manzanaras (Turley) | 270.4 | 6.7 |

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that on October 15, 2001 the Bloomfield Irrigation District of P.O. Box 206 Bloomfield, NM 87413 filed Application 01675 with the OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER for a Permit to Increase the Maximum Diversion Rate Off the San Juan River. The applicant requests to increase its maximum diversion rate off the San Juan River by 123.2 cubic feet per second (cfs) from 109.8 cfs to 233.0 cfs. The point of diversion is at the existing Citizen's Ditch diversion in the NE/4 NE/4 SW/4 of Section 19, Township 30 North, Range 9 West, N.M.P.M., located in the Navajo Dam Community area, approximately one mile down river from the New Mexico Highway 173 San Juan River Bridge in San Juan County, New Mexico. The applicant further requests a change to 233.0 cfs maximum diversion rate during the irrigation season (March thru November) and 90 cfs during the remainder of the year. The applicant does not propose to change any place or purpose of use by this application. There are many water right owners. The proposed diversion rate increases resulting in a maximum diversion rate of 233.0 cfs for the Citizen's Ditch diversion are as follows:

PROPOSED DIVERSION RATE INCREASES

| Water Right | Priority Date | Diversion Amount (acre feet per year) | Maximum Rate of Diversion (cubic feet per second) |
|-------------|--------------------|--|--|
| | 1887, No. 2 | 1471.9 | 12.4 |
| | 1888, No. 7 | 1152.3 | 10.1 |
| | 1905, No. 5 (P.R.) | 369.0 | *3.1 |
| a. | Aug. 24, 1951 | 16.5 | *0.2 |
| b. | Aug. 24, 1951 | 766.2 | *17.1 |
| a. | Jan. 18, 1954 | 800.0 | *17.9 |
| b. | Jan. 18, 1954 | 400.0 | *2.8 |
| | Oct. 24, 1955 | 1450.8 | 12.0 |
| a. | May 1, 1956 (A.R.) | 3093.1 | *32.1 |
| b. | May 1, 1956 (A.R.) | 1487.0 | *15.5 |
| | | Total=11,005.8 | Total Incr.=123.2 |

Under the Water Right heading:

1. Court Decree Cause No. 01690 for Jaquez Ditch, OSE File No. 02801.
2. Court Decree Cause No. 01690 for La Pampa Ditch, OSE File No. 02333.
3. Conoco transfer of water rights: OSE File No. 02964 into 01675.
4. El Paso Natural Gas licenses: a.) OSE File No. 2740 (1); and b.) OSE File No.'s 2740 (2) & (3).
5. Licenses: a.) El Paso Natural Gas, OSE File No. 2800(A); and b.) Bloomfield Irrigation District, OSE File No. 2800.
6. Licenses: OSE File No.'s 2870 (1) thru (26).
7. Animas-La Plata Project Permits: a.) OSE File No.'s 4489 and 4495 (City of Bloomfield/San Juan Water Commission); and b.) OSE File No. 4498 (portion allocated to City of Bloomfield). Diversion amounts shown represent the full diversion amount under the Animas-La Plata permits. Allowable diversion amounts are currently limited to one-half the full diversion amount.

* Represents year around diversion.
 Note: P.R. - denotes Pine River; A.R. - denotes Animas River; all other priority dates are from the San Juan River.

Any person, firm or corporation or other entity having standing to file objections or protests shall do so in writing (legible, signed, and include the writers complete name and mailing address). The objection to the approval of the application: (1) if impairment, you must specifically identify your water rights; and/or (2) if public welfare or conservation of the water within the state of New Mexico, you must show you will be substantially effected. The written protest must be filed, in triplicate, with the State Engineer, Thomas C. Turney, 100 S. Oliver Drive, Aztec, NM 87410, within (10) days after the date of the last publication of this Notice. Facsimile's (fax's) will be accepted as a valid protest as long as the hard copy is sent within 24-hours of the facsimile. Mailing postmark will be used to validate the 24-hour period. Protests can be faxed to (505) 334-3168. If no valid protest of objection is filed, the State Engineer will evaluate the application in accordance with Sections 72-2-16, 72-5-6 and 72-12-3.

Legal No. 47016, published in The Daily Times, Farmington, New Mexico, Tuesdays, November 22, 19 & 26, 2002.

**West Hammond Domestic Water Association
414 County Road 5500
Bloomfield, NM 87413
(505) 632-2987 FAX (505) 632-9582**

November 28, 2002

Ken Beck
Bureau of Reclamation
Western Colorado Area Office
835 East Second Avenue, Suite 400
Durango, Colorado 81301

Dear Mr. Beck:

On behalf of the West Hammond Domestic Water Association, we wish to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Navajo Reservoir Operations. Our primary concern is for delivery of safe drinking water at a reasonable cost to our members, which consist of multiple minority groups and income levels. We are also held to strict state and federal water quality standards for the water within our system. It is therefore extremely disturbing, to us when the Bureau of Reclamation can propose regulating flows and neglect their responsibility (moral and legal) for water quality.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) the law states that "it is the continuing responsibility of the Federal Government to use all practicable means, consistent with other essential considerations of national policy, to improve and coordinate Federal plans, functions, programs, and resources to the end that the Nation may:

1. Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
2. Assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
3. Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;"

Executive Order 12866 also states; "The American people deserve a regulatory system that works for them, not against them: a regulatory system that protects and improves their health, safety, environment, and

well-being and improves the performance of the economy without imposing unacceptable or unreasonable costs on society...”

What are the potential impacts to drinking water that is drawn from the San Juan River under the Preferred Alternative? Has the Bureau of Reclamation proposed or determined any mitigation actions to minimize water quality degradation?

1

WD4-1 Please see the response to General Comment 23.

The DEIS states that under the Preferred Alternative “A 250-cfs release from Navajo Reservoir during the irrigation season would probably result in low flows (in the range of approximately 60-150cfs) from Citizens Ditch diversion (river mile 217) to Farmington (river mile 181) due to irrigation demands. During the Summer Low Flow Test (Reclamation, 2002) several water quality parameters (temperature, aluminum, fecal coliform, total organic carbon, and conductivity) exceeded the State standards for this reach. Exceedences of water quality standards would probably increase at these lower flows over the long term.” It also states that “long-term summer low flows may cause exceedences of the water quality standards or an increase in bioaccumulation of some trace elements.” (DEIS pg III-96)

Was there any baseline data taken to compare the effects on water quality before the Summer Low Flow Test? Do the estimated “exceedences” of water quality standards pose a risk to the residents of San Juan County that have their drinking water taken out of the river? By how much are the standard exceeded? If a 7 day low flow test had “potential limitations” and exceeded State water standards, then what are the estimated effects of a prolonged 250 cfs flow? What mitigation measures are proposed for the exceedence of water standards?

2

WD4-2 Please see the responses to General Comments 22 and 23.

The mission statement of the Bureau is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American Public. The fact that the Bureau neglects water quality issues due to the adjusted flows is in direct violation of their own mission. NEPA procedures must insure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before

decisions are made and before actions are taken. To make a statement that water quality will be diminished, but not specifically identify the extent of that diminishment to the public water systems is in complete derision for the American Public and the citizens along the San Juan River.

Within the Summer Low Flow Test Results it was identified that "fecal coliform samples exceeded the standard at the sites above the Highway 44 bridge in Bloomfield and at the Geological Survey (GS) gauge in Farmington below the confluence of the San Juan and Animas River." The Bloomfield sample was taken just above the diversion for the Lee/Hammond Water Treatment Plant, which supplies water for our association.

Is the health and safety of the water users on West Hammond so unimportant that it was not worth mentioning in the DEIS? Doesn't the public have a right to know if the possibilities exist for their drinking water to be unsafe or harmful?

3

WD4-3 Please see the response to General Comment 23.

The Bureau of Reclamation apparently has data concerning the "exceedence of standards" and neglects to identify these within the DEIS and how it relates to human health and safety. In *Catron vs. Babbitt*, the courts stated that 'just because the Secretary says so, doesn't make it so'. The Bureau has taken an even more evasive approach in that they don't specifically identify or mitigate the effects to water quality.

The Bureau also tries to pass the water quality responsibility to the New Mexico Department of Environment, which has scheduled Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies to be completed in the next several years. The TMDLs will then identify "best management practice" to prevent violation of State water quality standards. Without addressing the fact that the Preferred Alternative will violate State water standards, and impose upon water users, within the entire watershed, stricter regulations through the "best management practices" to reduce non-point source pollutant loading. The Bureau has also and most importantly neglected their responsibility to the American Public and the citizens of San Juan County. Water quality, for health and safety reasons, should have been a primary focus of the DEIS and was only briefly mentioned. A lower quality of water due to the Preferred Alternative will

create a lower baseline for which the New Mexico Department of Environment has to apply the "best management practices". These "best management practices" will affect federal land uses (grazing, oil and gas, and recreation), Indian land uses (grazing, oil and gas, and recreation), private land uses (agriculture, oil and gas, development, and recreation), and municipalities. The DEIS neglects to identify and mitigate these impacts or to identify the population and environmental justice effects.

Isn't the Bureau of Reclamation responsible for the degraded water quality due to their actions? What are the potential impacts to all the citizens of San Juan County, New Mexico of the lower water quality and the subsequent development of the "best management practices"?

4

WD4-4 Please see the response to General Comment 23.

The NEPA process is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on understanding of environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment. The outright neglect of the Bureau to identify the impacts to water quality will lead to an arbitrary decision made and could detrimentally affect our water plant and the water we deliver to the public for consumption. Water quality is a serious issue and the fact that the Bureau only did a 7 day low flow test to determine impacts demonstrates the Bureau's negligible attitude towards water quality and public health and safety.

If a decision is made based upon a neglectful DEIS and in fact that water quality causes undue expense or health risks to the American public along the San Juan River, does the Bureau of Reclamation have a liability or responsibility to correct or compensate?

5

WD4-5 Please see the responses to General Comments 1a and 23.

The DEIS states that customers of the Farmington Electrical Service will have an increase in their electric bills. This will have significant affects upon our customers, both in their personal use of electricity and in their water bills. This additional cost for electricity and any additional costs of processing the "degraded water" will have to be passed on to the consumer. This is an effect upon the human environment and the Bureau, once again, neglected to identify it within the public DEIS. These undue

costs have the potential to significantly affect the fixed and low-income families' everyday living expenses. This was never addressed within the DEIS under the environmental justice.

The DEIS states numerous times that the Preferred Alternative is flexible for an "Interim Period". It states, "...The interim period is the time until the ALP Project and NIIP are fully operational along with 3000 acre-feet of minor unspecified water depletions). Additional operational flexibility may exist to provide supplemental flows for various purposes in this interim period as a result of these unutilized depletions."

**Where is the water going to come from in the long run to meet the flexibility demands, which is a must, in the Preferred Alternative?
How will this problem become compounded in times of extended droughts, which are common in the Arid Southwest?**

6

WD4-6 Please see the responses to General Comments 11 and 13.

It was stated that the flexibility only existed in the short run during the irrigation season, suggesting that there is not enough water for downstream irrigators to divert their water rights in periods when flows are 250 cfs. This leads us to believe that when the flexibility no longer exists in the long run, the irrigators or the Lee/Hammond Water Plant are going to be the ones that are unable to divert their legal water rights. Therefore, the possibilities of members within our association being impacted are high. The Bureau never even attempted to address this issue within the DEIS and therefore violated the NEPA process.

**What are the total impacts to the irrigators and residents between Navajo Dam and the confluence of the Animas River from implementation of the Preferred Alternative in both the long run and the short run?
Is this impact going to be compounded in periods of extreme drought?
How are the irrigators going to be compensated for their loss of water?
What mitigation measures are going to be taken to try and minimize this impact?**

7

WD4-7 Please see the responses to General Comments 2, 13, 20d, and 31d.

How is the Bureau going to determine which irrigators lose their water? Furthermore, How is the loss in agricultural production going to affect the local economy?

8

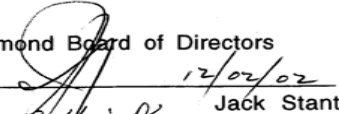
Overall, the Draft Economic Impact Statement for the Navajo Reservoir Operations fails to objectively and honestly identify the environmental or economic impacts of re-operation of the Navajo Reservoir. The entire analysis is flawed due to the confusion of the baseline, which changes the impacts when evaluating the Action Alternatives. There have been limited efforts to identify the total impacts to the natural environment, or the human environment. Water is a precious resource within New Mexico and the arid southwest, the issues surrounding water quality within the DEIS are only given minimal attention, these should be an important component which received extensive analysis. Potential water quality impacts should have been identified, quantified, and mitigated in relation to the multiple water uses within the San Juan Basin.


The entire DEIS marginally attempts to identify the cumulative impacts to the multiple resources and communities of the San Juan Basin, including the endangered species. The Bureau makes numerous assumptions and statements of "fact" that are not justified or supported with any kind of scientific data. It is unclear, unproven and fails to address with any kind of reasonability the potential total cumulative impacts, mitigation measures, or regulatory takings implications to private property. There are numerous legal requirements of the Bureau of Reclamation to prepare a document that is clear, concise, and easy to understand. They are also required to involve and inform the public of any possible impacts and attempt to mitigate those impacts. Because the DEIS is the last avenue for public participation and the document fails in so many areas.

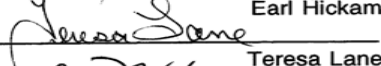
WD4-8 Please see the responses to General Comments 20d and 31d.

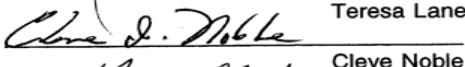
A comprehensive, justifiable, understandable, and honest impact analysis should be conducted and the public should be allowed to evaluate that analysis before any action is taken or decisions made which could have irreversible and irretrievable impacts to the environment and economies of the San Juan Basin.


Cordially,
West Hammond Board of Directors

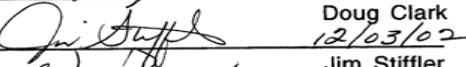
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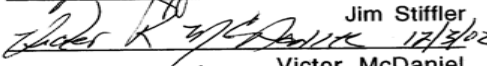

 Earl Hickam

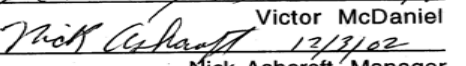

 Teresa Lane


 Cleve Noble


 Doug Clark

 12/03/02
 Jim Stiffler

 12/3/02
 Victor McDaniel

 12/19/02
 Nick Ashcroft, Manager

cc: Senator Pete Domenici
 Senator Jeff Bingaman
 Representative Heather Wilson
 Representative Tom Udall
 Governor elect, Bill Richardson
 Diane Barnes, New Mexico Environmental Department