

NAVAJO UNIT OPERATIONS MEETING

January 20, 2004

Participation: This meeting was held in Farmington, New Mexico at the Civic Center. The attendance list is attached.

Purpose of Meeting: The purpose of these meetings-- held in January, April, and August-- is to gather input for determining upcoming operations for Navajo Reservoir. This input is used in Reclamation's development of an overall 24-month study for operation of Reclamation projects in the Upper Colorado River Basin, which includes plans for Glen Canyon, Flaming Gorge, Aspinall Unit and Navajo. Input from individuals, organizations, and agencies along with other factors such as weather, water rights, endangered species requirements, flood control, hydro power, recreation, fish and wildlife management and reservoir levels, will be considered in the development of these reservoir operation plans. In addition, the meetings are used to coordinate activities and exchange information among agencies, water users, and other interested parties concerning the San Juan River and Navajo Reservoir.

2003 Water Year Summary

During January through December 2003, the inflow was 400,242 acre-feet, or 38 percent of the 30-year average. This is the third lowest inflow recorded since the dam was built (in 2002, the inflow was 151,635 acre-feet). The reservoir release was 321,400 acre-feet. The reservoir water surface elevation on December 31, 2003, was 5996.36 feet, which corresponds to 710,100 acre-feet of live storage.

Preliminary April-July 2004 Planned Operation

Based on the Most Probable Inflow Forecast as of January 15, 2004, the April through July forecasted inflow is 880,000 acre-feet, or 112 percent of average. The reservoir water surface elevation on January 20, 2004 was 5996.16 feet which corresponds to 708,500 acre-feet of live storage.

Minimum releases will remain at 250 cfs until irrigation season begins (early April 2004). Because of the current schedule for completion of the Navajo Reservoir Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), the minimum release may be increased when irrigation season begins (early April 2004). Adjustments to the releases will be made as necessary to react to changing weather and stream flow conditions in order to meet downstream needs, including maintaining the target base flow for the endangered fish.

As outlined in the SJRIP Operating Rule Decision Tree, and based on the January Forecast, a spring peak release could occur this year, however because of planned maintenance work, a peak release will not be made.

Navajo Dam Maintenance Activities

A contract for maintenance and repair work on the auxiliary outlet works two 4 by 4 gates is

scheduled to be awarded in early March with work to begin in late March. The work is scheduled to be completed in approximately nine to ten months.

Navajo Reservoir Shortage Sharing

Shortage sharing recommendations are developed for water year 2003. The ten major water users in the San Juan River Basin are developing similar shortage sharing recommendations for 2004. Based upon the current forecast, a shortage is not anticipated at this time.

Navajo Reservoir Operations Environmental Impact Statement

The Navajo Reservoir Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to describe the environmental impacts of alternatives for operating the dam and reservoir to implement the SJRBRIP flow recommendations has experienced some delays. The biological opinion is tentatively scheduled to be completed by the Fish and Wildlife Service on February 1, 2004. This document is needed to complete the FEIS. The final FEIS is now scheduled to be released on April 1, 2004. The Record of Decision is scheduled for May 1, 2004.

Next Meeting - Scheduled for **1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 2004** at the Civic Center in Farmington, New Mexico (200 West Arrington Street).

Attendance List – January 20, 2004 Navajo Operations Meeting

Allcorn, Jacqueline, San Juan Water Commission, Farmington NM
Austin, Steve, Navajo EPA, Shiprock NM
Ashcroft, Nick, West Hammond Domestic Water Assoc., Bloomfield NM
Ashman, Rob, San Juan Generation Station, PNM, Waterflow NM
Beegles, Ken, Division of Water Resources, Durango CO
Berchie, Curt, Arizona Public Service, Phoenix AZ
Berkenfield, Scott, Bureau of Land Management, Monticello UT
Bliesner, Ron, Keller-Bliesner Engineering, Logan UT
Bloomfield, Dave, Arizona Public Service, Fruitland NM
Bryant, Doug, New Mexico State Parks, Navajo Dam NM
Charley, Wilton, Navajo Agricultural Production Inc., Farmington NM
Crawford, Carroll, Bloomfield Irrigation District and Citizen, Farmington NM
Davidson, Paul, Bureau of Reclamation, Salt Lake City UT
Harris, Steve, Southwest Water Conservancy District, Durango CO
Hickam, Earl, West Hammond Water Users, Bloomfield NM
Horner, Gary, Attorney, Farmington NM
Johnson, Lawrence W., Soaring Eagle Lodge, Navajo Dam NM
Knight, Eric, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Junction CO
Knopick, Tom, Duranglers, Durango CO
Krakow, Bob, BIA-NIIP, Farmington NM
Lane, Harry, San Juan Trout Outfitters, Farmington NM
Lane, Teresa, Hammond Conservancy District, Bloomfield NM
Lashmett, Kirk, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Larvey, Matt, Public Service of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM
Lee, Keith, San Juan Water Commission, Aztec NM
Leeper, John, Navajo Nation, Dept. of Natural Resources, Fort Defiance, AZ
LeFevre, Andrea, Jicarilla Tribe, Dulce NM
Lincoln Jr., Elmer J., BHP Billiton, Farmington NM
McCall, Steve, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Junction CO
Murray, Cindy, PNM, Albuquerque NM
Nesbit, Mark, Guide Service, Navajo Dam NM
O'Brien, Maria, BHP Billiton, Albuquerque NM
Oxford, Bob, Citizen
Page, Pat, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Renfro, Jim, Lee Acres Water Association, Farmington NM
Ruybalid, Casimiro, City of Bloomfield NM
Sims, Michael, City of Farmington, Farmington NM
Simons, John, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Swickard, Ruth, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Symonds, Melvin, Shrine Park, Farmington NM
Trujillo, Joe, for Senator Pete Domenici, Albuquerque NM
Trost, Richard, BHP Billiton, Farmington NM
Tosie, Bernadette, Navajo Nation, Water Management Branch, Ft. Defiance AZ
Velasquez, Mike, Bureau of Reclamation, Navajo Dam NM
Walden, Larry, Bureau of Reclamation, Farmington NM
Warner, Ed, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Junction CO
Watson, Lewis, Bloomfield Irrigation District, Bloomfield NM
Weiss, John, Colorado State Parks, Arboles CO
Wethington, Marc, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Navajo Dam NM
Whitehead, Bruce, Division of Water Resources, Durango CO
Williams, Shawn, City of Farmington, Farmington NM
Wood, Zang, Flora Vista Water Users, Farmington NM
Yazzie, D., Navajo Agricultural Production Inc., Farmington NM