

May 24, 2006

WCD-RSwickard
RES-13.10

Subject: Navajo Unit Operations

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is a summary of our April 24, 2006, meeting to coordinate Reclamation's operation of the Navajo Unit. The meeting was held at City Hall, 800 Municipal Drive, Farmington, New Mexico.

Highlights of the meeting include:

—Based on the Most Probable Inflow Forecast as of April 13, 2006, this year's April through July forecasted runoff is anticipated to be 440,000 acre-feet or 55 percent of normal inflow into Navajo Reservoir. This is an increase from the March 1st April to July forecast which was 250,000 acre feet or 32% percent of normal.

— As outlined in the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (SJRIP) Operating Rule Decision Tree, a spring peak release will occur this year. The release will begin the last week of May with a one-week ramp up to 5,000 cfs, seven days at 5,000 cfs and a one-week ramp down to 350 cfs (see attached chart). Information regarding the release schedule is also available online at: www.usbr.gov/uc/wcao/water/rsvrs/notice/nav_rel.html.

—Based on the reservoir storage level and current hydrological conditions, the minimum release this summer is anticipated to be no less than 350 cfs. Releases will likely be higher than that later in the summer in order to maintain the target base flows for endangered fish.

—No shortage is expected to occur during the summer. The Most Probable Forecast indicates that all users will receive a full supply. Reclamation has received all but one of the endorsements for the Recommendations for San Juan River Administration and Operation for 2006. The final endorsement is in the process of being completed.

—The Navajo Reservoir Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was released on April 24, 2006. The Record of Decision can be issued a minimum of thirty days after the release of the FEIS. The three-volume set of the FEIS is available online at www.usbr.gov/uc/wcao/ (look under Current Focus). Copies are also available on compact disk

and may be obtained by contacting Pat Page at (970) 385-6560, email ppage@uc.usbr.gov.

If you have any suggestions on improving the operation meetings or the summaries of the meetings, please let us know. The next operation meeting will be held on **Tuesday, August 29, 2006 at 1:00 in the Civic Center, Farmington, New Mexico (200 West Arrington Street)**.

If you have questions, please call Pat Page at 970-385-6560 or Ruth Swickard at 970-385-6523.

Sincerely,

Pat Page, Chief
Southern Water Management Group
Resource Management Division

Enclosure

Attendance List

bc: D-8150 (w/encl)
UC-400, UC-434, UC-438, UC-600, UC-723, UC-720, UC-726 (w/encl to ea)
WCG-CDeAngelis, WCG-SMoyer, WCG-EWarner, WCG-DCrabtree, WCG-SMcCall,
WCG-KOzga, WCG-CStanton, WCG-MSteves, WCG-JHock (w/encl to ea)
WCD-PPage, JSimons, , MChiarito, BDodd, MVelasquez (w/encl to ea)

WBR:RSwickard:DBegay:05/22/06:Meeting4/26/06ReclamationOperation-NavajoUnit.doc

NAVAJO UNIT OPERATIONS MEETING

April 24, 2006

Participation: This meeting was held in Farmington, New Mexico at the City Hall.

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.

Preliminary April-July 2005 Planned Operation

Based on the Most Probable Inflow Forecast as of April 13, 2006, the April through July forecasted inflow is 440,000 acre-feet or 55 percent of average. The reservoir water surface elevation on April 13, 2006 was 6072.19 feet which corresponds to 1,511,200 acre-feet of live storage.

A spring peak release of 114,000 acre-feet will occur this year. On May 25th, releases will be ramped up over an approximate one-week period from 350 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 5,000 cfs, where they'll stay for one week. Releases will be ramped down beginning June 8th, and will be back at 350 cfs on June 15, 2006. See the attached chart for more information regarding the spring peak release or go online at www.usbr.gov/uc/wcao/water/rsvrs/notice/nav_rel.html.

Based on current reservoir levels and hydrological conditions, it is anticipated that minimum releases will be no less than 350 cfs this year. Releases will be adjusted throughout the summer and fall as necessary in order to meet the SJRIP Flow Recommendations which call for a 7-day average target base flow of 500 cfs to 1,000 cfs in the critical habitat area (Farmington to Lake Powell).

Recommendations for San Juan River Operation and Administration

Nine of the ten parties who developed the Recommendations for San Juan River Operations and Administration for 2006 have submitted letters of endorsement. The tenth party is expected to submit their endorsement in the very near future. Based on the April forecast, no shortage is expected to occur this year.

Maintenance

No major maintenance is scheduled until 2008.

Navajo Reservoir Operations Environmental Impact Statement

The Navajo Reservoir Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for operating the reservoir to implement the SJRIP flow recommendations was released on April 24, 2006. The Record of Decision (ROD) can be signed a minimum of thirty days following the release of the FEIS. The three-volume set of the FEIS is available online at www.usbr.gov/uc/wcao/ (look under Current Focus). Copies are also available on compact disk and may be obtained by contacting Pat Page at (970) 385-6560, email ppage@uc.usbr.gov.

Agencies Comments

Jicarilla Apache Nation – Updating their Water Plan

Navajo Nation – NAPI began irrigating in March – looking forward to a good year.

Bloomfield Irrigation District – A reward is being offered for any information concerning the vandalism to head gates on their ditches.

Congressman Tom Udall’s Representative – No comments were given concerning the Navajo Operations. Discussed meeting and site tour with the Animas-La Plata Project sponsors.

New Mexico Game and Fish – A trout habitat improvement was created in December 2005, on the San Juan River, three miles below the dam using boulders to construct 13 individual in-stream structures. Additional improvements are planned this winter.

New Mexico State Engineers Office – Continue to install / maintain gaging stations at diversions.

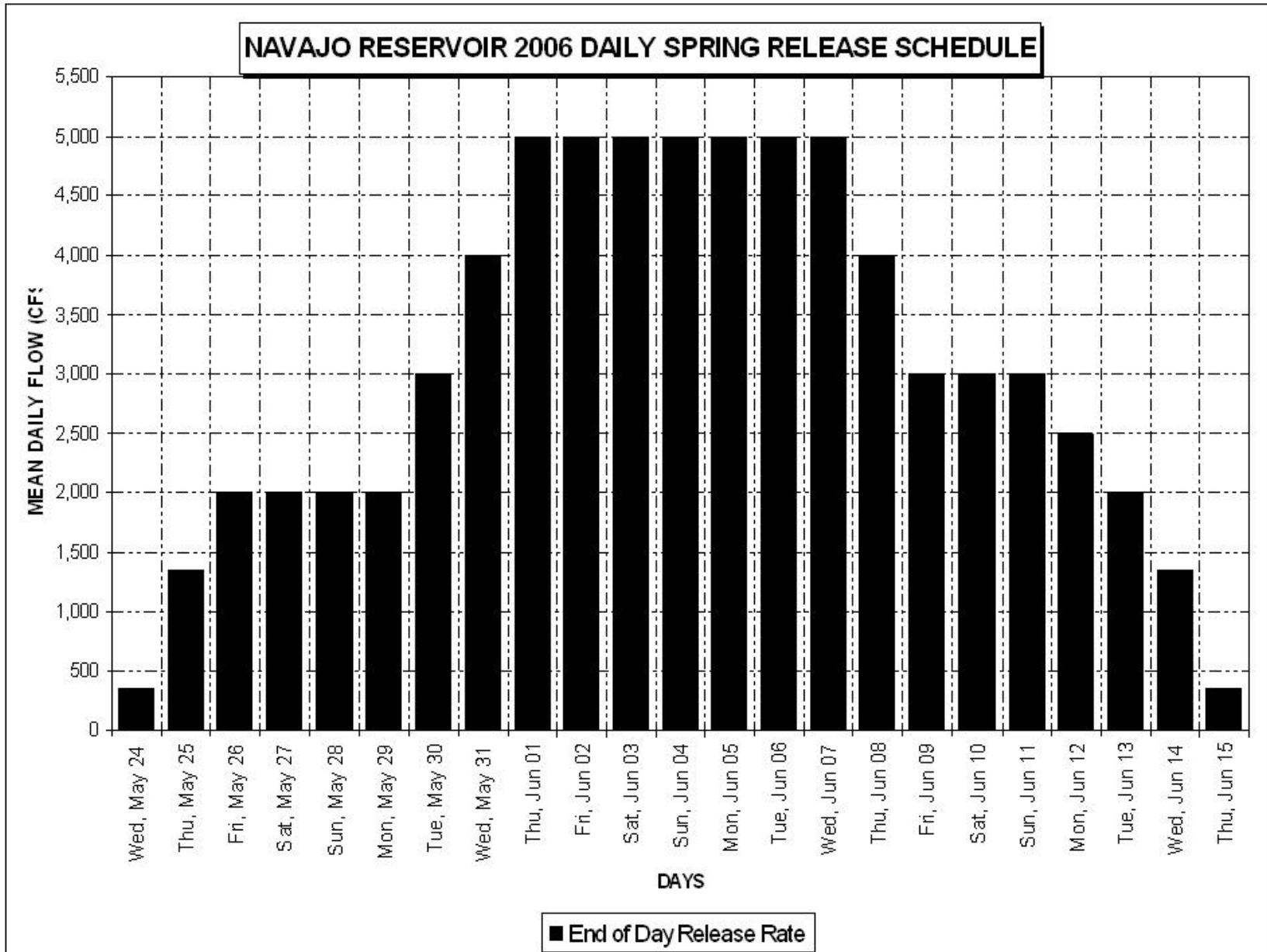
Corp of Engineer’s – Thanked Reclamation for keeping the Albuquerque office informed on releases.

New Mexico State Parks – Infrastructure improvements are underway. They're predicting a good summer visitation as Navajo Reservoir will likely be the biggest reservoir in the state this year.

APS – Leading the effort to remove non-native vegetation and general cleanup at Morgan Lake.

Larry Johnson (Soaring Eagle Lodge) – Expressed concerns about lack of return flow from Citizen's Ditch. It seems to be less than in the past.

Next Meeting - Scheduled for **1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 29, 2006** at the Civic Center in Farmington, New Mexico (200 West Arrington Street).



Attendance List – April 24, 2006 Navajo Operations Meeting

Adkins, Allen, New Mexico State Parks, Aztec NM
Ashcroft, Nick, West Hammond Domestic Water Assoc., Bloomfield NM
Ashman, Rob, San Juan Generation Station, PNM, Waterflow NM
Bliesner, Ron, Keller-Bliesner Engineering, Logan UT
Bloomfield, Dave, Arizona Public Service, Fruitland NM
Bryant, Doug, New Mexico State Parks, Aztec NM
Charley, Wilton, NAPI, Farmington NM
Crawford, Carol, Bloomfield Irrigation District, Bloomfield NM
Cutler, Chris, Bureau of Reclamation, Salt Lake City UT
Davidson, Paul, Bureau of Reclamation, Salt Lake City UT
Dixon, Earle, Navajo Nation, Fort Defiance AZ
Goode, Doris, Navajo Lake State Park, Navajo Dam NM
Hoke, Sydney, New Mexico State Parks, Aztec NM
Horner, Gary, Attorney, Farmington NM
Howe, Michael, BIA, NIIP, Farmington NM
Jimerson, Tim, San Juan Fly Fishing Federation, Navajo Dam NM
Joe, Charley P., Navajo Nation, Shiprock Chapter, Shiprock NM
Johnson, Lawrence W., Soaring Eagle Lodge, Navajo Dam NM
Lane, Teresa, Hammond Conservancy District, Bloomfield NM
Lee, Keith, SJCRW, Kirtland NM
Lincoln, Jr., E.J., BHP Billiton, Farmington NM
Lynch, Steve, BIA, NIIP, Farmington NM
McCall, Steve, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Junction CO
Mendenhall, Mark, Corp of Engineers, Albuquerque NM
Montia, Paul A., City of Farmington, Farmington NM
Moore, Clint, Corp of Engineers, Albuquerque NM
Neil, Dennis, Navajo State Parks, Arboles CO
Oxford, Bob, Citizen, Aztec NM
Page, Pat, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Richmond Linda, Bureau of Land Management, Bluff UT
Renfro, Jim, Lee Acres Water Users, Farmington NM
Simons, John, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Swickard, Ruth, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Trost, Richard, BHP Billiton, Farmington NM
Valencia, Pete, Rep. Congressman Tom Udall, Albuquerque NM
Velarde, Robert, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Dulce NM
Warner, Ed, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Junction CO
Williams, Shawn, State Engineer's Office, Aztec NM