

WCS-PPage
ADM-10.00

Subject: Navajo Unit Operations Meeting Notes

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is a summary of our August 29, 2006, meeting to coordinate Reclamation's operation of the Navajo Unit. The meeting was held at the Civic Center in Farmington, New Mexico.

Highlights of the meeting include:

— The April through July actual inflow to Navajo Reservoir was 310,800 acre-feet, or 46 percent of the 30- year average.

— Releases are currently at 600 cubic feet per second (cfs). Adjustments to the releases will be made as necessary to react to changing weather and stream flow conditions. The reservoir elevation on August 28, 2006 was 6065.56 feet which corresponds to 1,420,190 acre-feet of live storage. This is 83% of the 30-year average for this time of the year.

— A spring peak release was made from the reservoir this year. San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program's (SJRIP) Flow Recommendation called for the 7-Day, 5000 cfs hydrograph release. Releases were ramped up beginning May 25th, 2006, remained at 5000 cfs from June 1st through June 7th, and ramped down beginning June 8th. Because of low Animas River flows, only the 10-Day 2,500 cfs flow criteria as identified in the SJRIP Flow Recommendation were met.

—The preliminary inflow forecast for 2007 is estimated to be around 93% of the 30 year average. However, this is very preliminary and will change as updated forecasts become available.

— The Navajo Reservoir Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was released in April 2006. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed July 31, 2006. Reclamation's decision is to implement the Preferred Alternative identified in the FEIS with reservoir releases ranging from 250 cfs to 5,000 cfs.

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, January 23, 2007 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
Water Management Group Chief

Enclosure

BC: Regional Director, Salt Lake City, UT

Attention: UC-400, UC-434, UC-438, UC-600, UC-723, UC-720, UC-726 (ea w/encl)

Director, Technical Service Center, Denver, CO

Attention: D-8510 (w/encl)

WCG-CDeAngelis, SMoyer, EWarner, DCrabtree, SMcCall, KOzga, MSteves, JHock (ea w/encl)

WCD-PPage, RSwickard, JSimons, MCharito, BDodd, MVelasquez

(ea w/encl)

NAVAJO UNIT OPERATIONS MEETING

August 29, 2006

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.

2006 Water Year Summary

The actual inflow into Navajo Reservoir during April through July 2006 was 310,800 or 46 percent of the 30 year average. The reservoir water surface elevation on August 30, 2006 was 6065.44 feet which corresponds to 1,418,589 acre-feet of live storage.

A spring peak release was made from the reservoir this year. San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program's (SJRIP) Flow Recommendation called for the 7-Day, 5000 cfs hydrograph release. Releases were ramped up beginning May 25th, 2006, remained at 5000 cfs from June 1st through June 7th, and ramped down beginning June 8th. The total spring peak release was approximately 141,000 acre-feet. Animas River contributions to the San Juan River flows were low this year resulting in only the 10-day 2,500 cfs criteria of the SJRIP Flow Recommendations being met.

Releases have remained between 500 and 750 cfs through most of the summer and the target base flow through the endangered fish critical habitat area has been maintained. Releases will be adjusted as necessary in order to meet the target base flow recommendations.

Preliminary 2007 Operation

Because a long-term forecast is not available, the proposed operation of the reservoir for 2007 is based on the short-term (August through October 2006) forecast and 30-year inflow statistics for November 2006 through September 2007. Using this information, the inflow in 2007 is estimated to be 93% of the 30-year average. However, this is very preliminary and will change as updated forecasts become available.

Recommendations for San Juan River Operation and Administration (aka Water Sharing Agreement)

Some entities expressed a desire to initiate discussions on developing a water sharing agreement

for 2007.

Navajo Reservoir Operations Environmental Impact Statement

The Navajo Reservoir Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was released in April 2006. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed July 31, 2006. Reclamation's decision is to implement the Preferred Alternative identified in the FEIS with reservoir releases ranging from 250 cfs to 5,000 cfs.

Agency/Organization Activities and Discussion of Related Activities

New Mexico State Engineer's Office has been working on the measurement flumes on various ditches to improve the rating tables for these flumes. They are also going to be upgrading their website to make the ditch diversion data more accessible. They received a call from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps is scheduling work on the Turley Ditch this winter and will be requesting reduced releases to accommodate the construction.

New Mexico State Parks reported that Phase II of the Simon Canyon Fisheries Habitat Improvement Project is scheduled to start the first week of November. This is a multi-agency project designed to improve habitat on the lower quality water portion of the San Juan River below the dam and lessen impacts on the upper river portion.

Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs reported that they are having a good year. They anticipate ending up the season with a diversion increase of approximately 10,000 acre-feet over the last few years.

City of Farmington reported that they are working with the San Juan Generating Station to temporarily transfer a portion of their water supply from the San Juan River to the Generating Station.

Pete Valencia from Congressman Tom Udall's office reported on NAPI's recent negotiations with Cuba saying that he expects great things to come out of those discussions.

Bob Oxford and Gary Horner questioned how Reclamation and the State Engineer were going to 1) determine the inflows into Navajo Reservoir, and 2) differentiate between releases from storage made for Navajo Reservoir contractors and pass-through releases for downstream senior water rights.

Next Meeting - Scheduled for **1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2007** at the Civic Center in Farmington, New Mexico (200 West Arrington Street).

Attendance List – August 29, 2006 Navajo Operations Meeting

Becay, Gretta, Talon News, Aztec NM
Bloomfield, Dave, Arizona Public Service, Fruitland NM
Charley, Wilton, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry, Farmington NM
Chavez, Aaron, San Juan Water Commission, Farmington NM
Cutler, Chris, Bureau of Reclamation, Salt Lake City UT
Gibson, Callie, Senator Pete Domenici, Albuquerque NM
Granthem-Richards, Maude, City of Farmington NM
Hart, Brandt, Bureau of Land Management, Bluff UT
Hart, Cheston, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Durango CO
Horner, Gary, Self, Farmington NM
Howe, Michael, BIA , Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, Farmington NM
Jacquez, Bruce M., Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, Farmington NM
Lane, Teresa, Hammond Conservancy District, Bloomfield NM
Lee, Keith, San Juan Water Commission, Kirkland NM
Lynch, Steve, BIA, Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, Farmington NM
Montoia, Paul, City of Farmington, Farmington, NM
Mueller, Steve, New Mexico State Parks, Navajo Dam NM
Nigel, Warren, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Water Division, Dulce NM
Oxford, Bob, Citizen, Farmington NM
Page, Pat, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Shirley, Craig, NM State Engineer's Office, Aztec NM
Simons, John, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Sorrelhorse, James, Navajo Nation, Dept. of Emergency Management, Shiprock NM
Trost, Rick, BHP Billiton, Farmington NM
Valencia, Pete, Congressman Tom Udall, Farmington NM
Warner, Ed, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Junction CO
Williams, Shawn, NM State Engineer's Office, Aztec NM