

# Animas-La Plata Project Update



**Excavation operations on the inlet conduit sleeve.**

the inlet conduit in the future without disturbing the relocated gas pipelines. The area of disturbance of the sleeve is within the limits established in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for construction of the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit. A contract for installing the pipe sleeve was awarded to the UMUT in June 2002. Prior to the start of construction, a cultural resources ground survey was conducted and no cultural resources were identified within the construction work area. Several sites adjacent to the work area were identified and marked to ensure they would not be disturbed during construction. If any cultural resources are found below the ground surface during construction, work in that area will be halted until the mitigation of the cultural resource can be completed. Installation of the pipe sleeve is anticipated to be completed in October 2002.

## Design and Construction

The Bureau of Reclamation has the responsibility for the design and construction of Ridges Basin Dam, the Durango Pumping Plant, the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit, and other features associated with the Animas-La Plata (ALP) Project. Designs of the Ridges Basin Dam and the Durango Pumping Plant are continuing and will be completed in the near future. Conceptual design of the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit has been completed. (The inlet conduit is the pipeline from the pumping plant to the reservoir.)

Reclamation will contract with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (UMUT) and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) for construction of the project features. Much of the construction work will be performed by the UMUT's construction agency, the Weeminuche Construction Authority. The SUIT, doing business as Sky Ute Sand and Gravel, will supply some of the construction materials for the project.

A contract for excavation of the Ridges Basin Dam Outlet Works

Tunnel is anticipated to be awarded to Weeminuche Construction Authority during the first half of Fiscal Year 2003. Construction activities will commence approximately one month after the contract is awarded. This contract will include construction of a concrete-lined tunnel approximately 1,400 feet long through the left abutment of the Ridges Basin Dam. The work will also include construction of a gate chamber on the tunnel; an intake structure and conduit at the upstream end of the outlet works tunnel; and a chute and stilling basin at the downstream end of the outlet works tunnel.

## Relocation of Pipelines

Construction of the Ridges Basin Dam will require relocating gas pipelines. The relocation crosses the alignment of the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit above the conduit. Since the construction schedule requires relocating the pipelines prior to installation of the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit, a pipe sleeve is being installed to allow for the safe installation of

## First blast for construction of the Animas La-Plata Project.



*This is the second in a series of newsletters designed to provide information on the Bureau of Reclamation's Animas-La Plata Project construction activities.*

## Programmatic Agreement

In May 2002, a Programmatic Agreement (PA) regarding the ALP Project was executed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in Washington D.C. The PA is an overall agreement between Reclamation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer.

The PA was prepared under the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act and delineates the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies for the cultural resources work associated with the ALP Project.

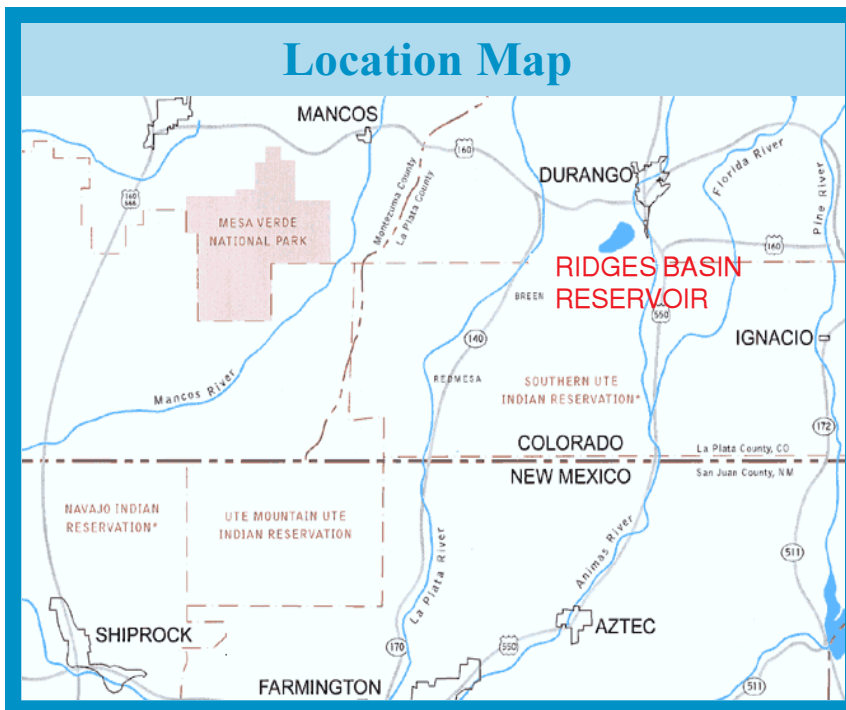


Water truck applying water for dust control.

## Construction Impacts on Durango

The construction activities within the next six months will have little impact on the residents of the city of Durango. County Road 211 remains open during pipe installation. The haul traffic is on a haul route adjacent and parallel to County Road 211 and does not impact the traffic on the county road.

Considerable attention is being given to dust control by placing water and dust deterrents on County Road 211 and other roads on the haul route.



## Cultural Resource Contract

A contract for cultural resource mitigation was awarded to the UMUT in April 2002. This contract is for cultural investigations on the ALP Project. Cultural resource ground surveys have been performed within the areas of the Ridges Basin Dam, the Durango Pumping Plant, and the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit. The Research Design and first year Mitigation Plan have been approved by the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer. Cultural mitigation of selected sites identified during the ground surveys will be mitigated by the UMUT.



For additional information on the Animas-La Plata Project, write or call:

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Or call our toll free telephone number that provides the date and place of public meetings relating to the Animas-La Plata Project at **1-866-720-0918**. You can visit our website at: [www.uc.usbr.gov](http://www.uc.usbr.gov), select Programs & Activities, then Animas-La Plata Project.