

WCS-PPage
ADM-10.00

Subject: Navajo Unit Operations

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is a summary of our January 21, 2003, meeting to coordinate Reclamation's operation of the Navajo Unit. The meeting was held in Farmington's Civic Center.

Highlights of the meeting include:

-Based on the Most Probable Inflow Forecast as of January 1, 2003, this year's April through July forecasted runoff is anticipated to be 510,000 acre-feet or 65 percent of normal inflow into Navajo Reservoir.

-The forecasts are very preliminary.

-Releases are currently at 350 cfs and will remain so through March 2003 at which time adjustments to the releases will be made as necessary in order to meet the San Juan Recovery Implementation Program flow recommendations.

-Reclamation has held several meetings with the Navajo Reservoir contractors to discuss different operating scenarios and shortage sharing criteria in the event that a shortage is declared. If a shortage is declared, it would not be made until after the March forecasted inflow to Navajo Reservoir is received.

-The Navajo Reservoir Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is scheduled to be released in September 2003. The record of decision is scheduled for October 5, 2003.

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, April 15, 2003 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,

/s/

Pat Page, Team Leader
Water Management Team
Resource Management Division

Enclosure
Distribution (see attached list)

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)

WCN-CDeAngelis, SMoyer, EWarner, DCrabtree, SMcCall, JOzga, KOzga., CStanton,
KFogelquist, MSteves, RStorbo, JWright (ea w/ encl)

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

Distribution list (e/encl)

NAVAJO UNIT OPERATIONS MEETING

January 21, 2003

Participation: This meeting was held in Farmington, New Mexico at the Civic Center.

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.

2002 Operation

A review of the 2002 operation was presented. Navajo Reservoir received 151,700 acre-feet of inflow last year, the lowest since the dam was constructed.

Releases were cut to 350 cfs on October 31, 2002. The target base flow through the critical habitat area is being met.

Preliminary April-July 2003 Planned Operation

Based on the Most Probable Inflow Forecast as of January 1, 2003, the April through July forecasted inflow is 510,000 acre-feet or 65percent of average. The reservoir water surface elevation on January 20, 2003 was 6009.62 feet which corresponds to 818,800 acre-feet of live storage.

Releases from the reservoir will continue to be 350 cfs through March. At that time, releases will be adjusted as necessary to meet the SJRIP Flow Recommendations which call for a target base flow of 500 cfs to 1,000 cfs in the critical habitat area (Farmington to Lake Powell).

Minimum releases will be 500 cfs this summer.

As outlined in the SJRIP Operating Rule Decision Tree, a spring peak release will not occur this year.

Navajo Reservoir Shortage Sharing

Reclamation has held three meetings with Navajo Reservoir contractors to discuss operating scenarios and potential shortage sharing options.

The concept of “Share and Share Alike” is being developed. Under this concept, direct-flow diverters would reduce their use in the same percentage as the contractors.

Additional meetings with the contractors as well as meetings with the direct-flow diverters will take place in the near future.

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 is scheduled to be released in September 2003. The Record of Decision is scheduled for October 2003.

Next Meeting - Scheduled for **1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2003** at the Civic Center in Farmington, New Mexico (200 West Arrington Street).

Attendance List – January 21, 2003 Navajo Operations Meeting

Ashman, Rob, Public Service Co of NM, Waterflow NM
Austin, Steve, Navajo EPA, Shiprock NM
Bliesner, Ron, Keller-Bliesner Engineering, Logan UT
Boretsky, John, New Mexico Council of Outfitters & Guides, Albuquerque NM
Carithers, Aaron, Anasazi Anglers, Hesperus CO
Chirigos, J.C., Farmington Electric Utility System, Farmington NM
Crabtree, Dan, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Junction CO
Davis, Luie, BHP Billiton, Farmington NM
Flammang, Steve, Farmington NM
Hamman, Mike, Jicarilla Tribal Attorney, Dulce NM
Hickam, Earl, West Hammond Water Users, Bloomfield NM
Horner, Gary, Farmington NM
Jesmer, Frank, San Juan Marina, Arboles CO
Johnson, Lawrence W., Soaring Eagle Lodge, Navajo Dam NM
Kandl, Ed, Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque NM
King, Chad, Giant Refinery, Farmington NM
Knight, Eric, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Junction CO
Knopick, Tom, Duranglers, Durango CO
Lane, Harry, San Juan Troutfitters, Farmington NM
Lane, Teresa, Hammond Conservancy District, Bloomfield NM
Lavery, Matt, Public Service of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM
Lopez, Daniel, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry, Farmington NM
Meloy, Mark, Bureau of Land Management, Bluff UT
Montoia, Paul A., City of Farmington, Farmington NM
Noble, Clere, West Hammond Water, Bloomfield NM
Ostheimer, Bill, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque NM
Page, Pat, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Renfro, Jim, Lee Acres Water Users, Farmington NM
Simons, John, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Sims, Michael, City of Farmington, Farmington NM
Swickard, Ruth, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Symonds, Melvin, Shrine Park, Farmington NM
Tavener, John, San Juan Guide Association, Aztec NM
Taylor, Lester K., Nordhaus Law Firm, Albuquerque NM
Trost, Richard, BHP Billiton, Farmington NM
Wood, Zang, FVMU, Farmington NM
Warner, Ed, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Junction CO
Weiss, John, Colorado State Parks, Arboles CO
Wethington, Marc, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Navajo Dam NM
Whitehead, Bruce, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Durango CO
Whipple, John, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, Santa Fe NM
Zuirener, Don, West Hammond Water Users, Bloomfield NM