



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Region
Western Colorado Area Office

2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106
Grand Junction CO 81506-8785

835 E 2nd Avenue, Suite 300
Durango CO 81301-5475

WCD-PPage
ADM-10.00

Subject: Navajo Unit Operations

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is a summary of our April 15, 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 April 1, 2003, this year's April through July forecasted runoff is anticipated to be 400,000 acre-feet or 50 percent of normal inflow into Navajo Reservoir. The April 15, 2003, anticipated inflow has dropped to 385,000 acre-feet or 44 percent of normal.

?Releases are currently at 400 cfs and adjustments to the releases will continue to be made as necessary in order to meet the San Juan Recovery Implementation Program flow recommendations. The Most Probable Forecast indicates that a spring peak release would not be made.

?A minimum release of 500 cfs will begin on May 1. Note: The current minimum release of 350 cfs has been extended due to high flows in the endangered fish critical habitat area.

? 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 realized. The Most Probable Forecast indicates that all users will receive a full supply.

?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, August 19, 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,

Pat Page, Team Leader
Water Management Team
Resource Management Division

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, JOzga, KOzga., CStanton,
MSteves, JHock (ea w/ encl)

WCD-PPage, JSimons, KLashmett, KBeck, MCharito, BDodd, MVelasquez (ea w/encl)

NAVAJO UNIT OPERATIONS MEETING

April 15, 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.

Preliminary April-July 2003 Planned Operation

Based on the Most Probable Inflow Forecast as of April 1, 2003, the April through July forecasted inflow is 400,000 acre-feet or 50 percent of average. The reservoir water surface elevation on April 15, 2003, was 6009.10 feet which corresponds to 814,892 acre-feet of live storage. There are only two years (1999 and 2002) which the snotel sites showed a lower snow pack and a higher reservoir elevation than this year. This correlation between the snow pack and runoff is very difficult to predict. A high snow pack does not necessarily mean a high inflow to the reservoir.

Releases from the reservoir were adjusted on Monday, April 14, 2003, to be 400 cfs. The releases will be adjusted as necessary 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).

Minimum releases will be 500 cfs beginning on May 1, 2003. Note: The current minimum release of 350 cfs has been extended due to high flows in the endangered fish critical habitat area.

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 several meetings with Navajo Reservoir contractors to discuss operating scenarios and potential shortage sharing options. Discussions are continuing.

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.

Maintenance

Releases from the reservoir will be switched from the 4'X4' gate for three weeks this summer while rebuilding the hydraulic system. This will have minimal effects on the releases.

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, August 19, 2003** at the Civic Center in Farmington, New Mexico (200 West Arrington Street).

Attendance List – April 15, 2003 Navajo Operations Meeting

Ashcroft, Nick, West Hammond Domestic Water Assoc., Bloomfield NM
Austin, Steve, Navajo EPA, Shiprock NM
Bliesner, Ron, Keller-Bliesner Engineering, Logan UT
Bryant, Doug, New Mexico State Parks, Navajo Dam NM
Buntjer, Mike, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque NM
Cutler, Chris, Bureau of Reclamation, Salt Lake City, UT
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, BHP Billiton, Farmington NM
Hamman, Mike, Jicarilla Tribal Attorney, Dulce NM
Harris, Steve, Southwest Water Conservancy District, Durango CO
Horner, Gary, Attorney, Farmington NM
Johnson, Lawrence W., Soaring Eagle Lodge, Navajo Dam NM
Krakow, Bob, BIA-NIIP, Farmington NM
Kirkpatrick, Randy, San Juan Water Commission, Farmington NM
Larvey, Matt, Public Service of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM
LeFevre, Andrea, Jicarilla Tribe, Dulce NM
Lopez, Daniel, Navajo Agricultural Production Inc., Farmington NM
Maxwell, Aaron, Jicarilla Comm., Dulce NM
McCall, Steve, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Junction CO
Montoya, Paul, City of Farmington, Farmington NM
O'Brien, Maria, BHP Billiton, Albuquerque NM
Oxford, Bob, Citizen
Ozga, John, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Junction CO
Page, Pat, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Renfro, J., Citizen
Richmond Linda, Bureau of Land Management, Monticello UT
Simons, John, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Sims, Michael, City of Farmington, Farmington NM
Start, Jack, WHDW
Swickard, Ruth, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Tavener, John, San Juan Guide Association,
Trost, Richard, BHP Billiton, Farmington NM
Bernadette Tsosie, Navajo Water Management Branch, Fort Defiance AZ
Velasquez, Mike, Bureau of Reclamation, Navajo Dam NM
Warner, Ed, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Junction CO

Attendance List – April 15, 2003 Navajo Operations Meeting (cont.)

Weiss, John, Colorado State Parks, Arboles CO

Williams, Shawn, City of Farmington, Farmington NM

Whipple, John, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, Santa Fe NM

Wood, Zang, Flora Vista Water Users, Farmington NM

Woolfolk, Carl, Arizona Public Service, Four Corners Power Plant, Fruitland NM

Yuska, Mark, Corp of Engineers, Albuquerque NM