

WCS-PPage
PRJ-13.10

Subject: Navajo Unit Operations Meeting Notes

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is a summary of our January 23, 2007, 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 2006 actual inflow to Navajo Reservoir was 310,800 acre-feet, or 48 percent of the 30-year average.
- Releases are currently at 500 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 January 22, 2007 was 6074.89 feet which corresponds to 1,549,700 acre-feet of live storage. This is 123% of the 30-year average for this time of the year.
- 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.
- According to the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program's (SJRIP) Flow Recommendations a spring peak release will be made from the reservoir this year.

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, May 1, 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-100, UC-140, UC-400, UC-434, UC-436, UC-438, UC-600, UC-700, UC-723,
UC-720, UC-726, UC-735 (ea w/encl)

Director, Technical Service Center, Denver, CO
Attention: D-8510 (w/encl)

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

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

Phoenix Area Office – LWalden

NAVAJO UNIT OPERATIONS MEETING

January 23, 2007

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 310,900 acre-feet (af) or 48 percent of the 30 year average. However, inflow to the reservoir from August through September 2006 was well above average which resulted in a 165% of average inflow for the entire water year.

Preliminary 2007 Operation

The Snow Water Equivalent, which measures the amount of water in the snowpack, as of January 16, 2007, indicates the San Juan Basin is 92 percent of average for this time of year.

As outlined in the San Juan River Implementation Program (SJRIP) Operating Rule Decision Tree, and based on the January Most Probable Inflow Forecast, a spring release of 356,000 af would occur this year. This would correlate to a release rate of 5,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) for 21 days, with 28 days of ramping up and 7 days of ramping down.

Releases are currently at 500 cubic feet per second (cfs). Adjustments to the releases will be made as necessary to react to changing weather, stream flow, and reservoir storage conditions in order to meet project purposes, including maintaining the target base flow of between 500 cfs and 1,000 cfs for the endangered fish.

The reservoir water surface elevation on January 22, 2007 was 6074.89 feet which corresponds to 1,549,700 af of live storage. This is 123% of the 30-year average for this time of the year.

Recommendations for San Juan River Operations and Administration for 2007 and 2008

The ten major New Mexico water users in the San Juan River Basin have developed water sharing recommendations for 2007 and 2008. The recommendations are currently going through each entity's respective approval process. Based on the current forecast, a shortage is not

anticipated this year.

Agency/Organization Activities and Discussion of Related Activities

Releases have been temporarily reduced to 250 cfs three times since November 2006. The first two times were to assist the New Mexico State Parks and New Mexico Game and Fish in trout habitat improvement projects. The third time, which occurred January 19, 2007, was to accommodate a ditch diversion improvement project on the Turley- Manzanares Ditch.

Requests were made to provide the spring peak release schedule to the public as soon as it is finalized.

Pete Valencia, with Rep. Tom Udall's office, announced that Congress has not passed budgets for government agencies for Fiscal Year 2007 and as a result, all agencies are operating on a continuing resolution (CR) which has spending limitations.

The SJRIP is analyzing possible changes to the flow recommendations. The Hydrology and Biology Committees are looking at the potential for increasing the frequency of high flows through the critical habitat at the expense of the mid-range flows. Maximum releases from Navajo Reservoir would remain at 5,000 cfs but would be timed to coincide with higher flows from the Animas River.

It was announced that the SJRIP Annual Program Review meeting will be held February 13-14, 2007 at the Farmington Civic Center.

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

Attendance List – January 23, 2007 Navajo Operations Meeting

Bloomfield, Dave, Arizona Public Service, Fruitland NM
Boughton, Brian, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Durango CO
Campbell, Mike, BHP NM Coal, Farmington NM
Chavez, Aaron, San Juan Water Commission, Farmington NM
Crawford, Carroll, Bloomfield Irrigation District, Farmington NM
Dennis, Neal, Navajo State Park, Arboles CO
Gibson, Callie, Senator Pete Domenici, Albuquerque NM
Hanna, Robert, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry, Farmington NM
Hamman, Mike, Jicarilla Utility, Dulce NM
Hart, Cheston, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Durango CO
Horner, Gary, Self, Farmington NM
Howe, Michael, BIA, Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, Farmington NM
Johnson, Larry, Soaring Eagle Lodge, Navajo Dam NM
Johnston, Clay, Citizen, Blanco CO
Lane, Teresa, Hammond Conservancy District, Bloomfield NM
LeFevre, Andrea, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Dulce NM
Lynch, Steve, BIA, Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, Farmington NM
Montoia, Paul, City of Farmington, Farmington, NM
Oxford, Robert E., Citizen, Aztec NM
Page, Pat, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Simons, John, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Symonds, Melvin, S.J. Shrine Park, Farmington NM
Thomas, Art, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry, O&M, Farmington NM
Valencia, Pete, Congressman Tom Udall, Farmington NM
Vigil, Warren, Jicarilla Nation, Dulce NM
Williams, Shawn, NM State Engineer's Office, Aztec NM