

WCS-RSwickard
PRJ-13.10

Subject: Navajo Unit Operations

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is a summary of our May 1, 2007, meeting to coordinate Reclamation's operation of the Navajo Unit. The meeting was held at the Farmington Civic Center, Farmington, New Mexico.

Highlights of the meeting include:

—Based on the Most Probable Inflow Forecast as of April 16, 2007, this year's April through July forecasted runoff is anticipated to be 480,000 acre-feet or 60 percent of average inflow into Navajo Reservoir. This is a decrease from the March 15th April to July forecast which was 550,000 acre feet or 69% percent of normal.

— As outlined in the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (SJRIP) Operating Rule Decision Tree, a spring peak release will occur this year. The release, which began on April 30th, will consist of a four day ramp up to 5,000 cfs, fourteen days at 5,000 cfs and a one-week ramp down to 500 cfs (see attached chart). Information regarding the release schedule is also available online at: www.usbr.gov/uc/wcao/water/rsvrs/notice/nav_rel.html.

—Due to the high storage level of the reservoir, and in anticipation of an early runoff, the peak release began early this year.

—No shortage is expected to occur this year. The Most Probable Forecast indicates that all users will receive a full supply. Reclamation has received all but one of the endorsements for the Recommendations for San Juan River Administration and Operation for 2007-2008. The final endorsement is in the process of being approved.

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 21, 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,

/s/

Pat Page, Chief
Southern Water Management Group
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: 86-68140 (w/encl)

WCG-CDeAngelis, EWarner, DCrabtree, SMcCall, MSteves,

JHock (ea w/encl)

WCD-PPage, JSimons, MChiarito, BDodd, MVelasquez

(ea w/encl)

NAVAJO UNIT OPERATIONS MEETING

May 1, 2007

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

Purpose of Meeting: The purpose of these meetings, held three times a year, 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 2005 Planned Operation

Based on the Most Probable Inflow Forecast as of April 16, 2007, the April through July forecasted inflow is 480,000 acre-feet or 60 percent of average. The reservoir water surface elevation on April 16, 2007 was 6079.48 feet which corresponds to 1,617,000 acre-feet of live storage.

In compliance with the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (SJRIP) Operating Rule Decision Tree, a 2-week spring peak release will occur this year. On April 30th, the release began to be ramped up over a four day period from 750 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 5,000 cfs, where it will stay for two weeks. The release will be ramped down beginning May 17th, and will be at approximately 500 cfs by May 23, 2007. See the attached chart for more information regarding the spring peak release or go online at www.usbr.gov/uc/wcao/water/rsvrs/notice/nav_rel.html.

Releases will be adjusted throughout the summer and fall as necessary in order to meet the SJRIP Flow Recommendations which call for a 7-day weekly average target base flow of between 500 cfs and 1,000 cfs in the critical habitat area (Farmington to Lake Powell).

Recommendations for San Juan River Operation and Administration

Nine of the ten parties who developed the Recommendations for San Juan River Operations and Administration for 2007-2008 have submitted letters of endorsement. The tenth party is expected to submit their endorsement in the very near future. No shortages are expected to occur this year.

Maintenance

No major maintenance is scheduled until 2008.

Agencies Comments

Navajo Nation – NAPI began irrigating in March – looking forward to a good year.

Bloomfield Irrigation District – They are keeping up with release changes.

Citizen – Asked if Animas River was expected to peak to such levels as to cause flooding in the Aztec area. Response was "no".

San Juan Water Commission – Stated that one of their members had asked what type of coordination/communication was occurring between Reclamation and local emergency agencies during high release periods. Response: Reclamation is in constant contact with the San Juan County Office of Emergency Management and other local emergency managers (Navajo Nation and San Juan County, UT) as well as the Army Corps of Engineers during the high spring peak release.

Army Corp of Engineer's – They will be keeping track of weather events during the peak spring release and appreciate the coordination phone calls during this time..

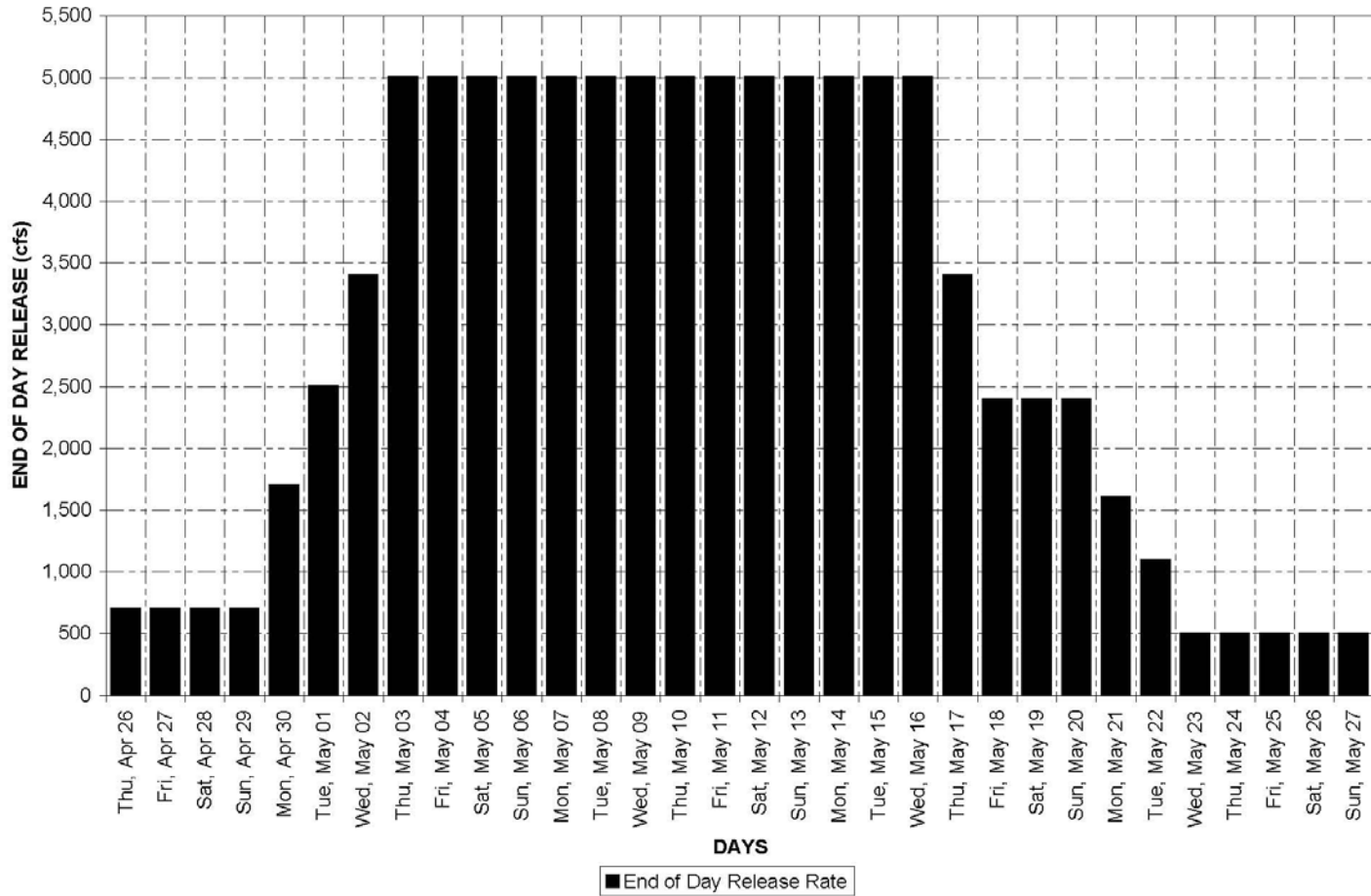
New Mexico State Parks – Happy with the reservoir being higher. This year is much better than in 2002 when the boat ramp was out of the water. However, they're pleased that the spring peak release is occurring earlier this year due to the high reservoir storage level.

BLM – Questioned the seven day average moving mean for meeting the target base flow. Reclamation explained the three gage rule for determining the target base flow. BLM representative also had questions/concerns/opinions regarding Animas-La Plata Project and Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.

An audience member questioned the effectiveness of the high spring peak releases at recovering the endangered fish. No response given.

Next Meeting - Scheduled for **1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 21, 2007** at the Civic Center in Farmington, New Mexico (200 West Arrington Street).

NAVAJO RESERVOIR 2007 DAILY SPRING RELEASE SCHEDULE



Attendance List – May 1, 2007 Navajo Operations Meeting

Bloomfield, Dave, Arizona Public Service, Fruitland NM
Charley, Wilton, NAPI, Farmington NM
Chavez, Aaron, San Juan Water Commission, Farmington NM
Crawford, Carol, Bloomfield Irrigation District, Bloomfield NM
Davidson, Paul, Bureau of Reclamation, Salt Lake City UT
Duncan, Martin, San Juan River Dineh Water Users
Franklin, Abe, New Mexico Emergency Dept./SWQB, Santa Fe NM
Gaston, Dorinda, Citizen, Bloomfield NM
Lepold, Steve, BIA, Farmington NM
Hurt, Cheston, Dept. of Water Resources, Durango CO
Horner, Gary, Attorney, Farmington NM
Howe, Michael, BIA, NIIP, Farmington NM
Kimball, John, Corp of Engineers, Albuquerque NM
Lane, Teresa, Hammond Conservancy District, Bloomfield NM
Lynch, Steve, BIA, NIIP, Farmington NM
Mendenhall, Mark, Corp of Engineers, Albuquerque NM
Montia, Paul A., City of Farmington, Farmington NM
Neil, Dennis, Navajo Colorado State Parks, Arboles CO
Norlander, Ken, Arizona Public Service, Phoenix AZ
Oxford, Robert, Citizen, Aztec NM
Page, Pat, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Richman Linda, Bureau of Land Management, Bluff UT
Renfro, Jim, Lee Acres Water Users, Farmington NM
Secrist, Doug, Navajo Colorado State Parks, Arboles CO
Swickard, Ruth, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Williams, Shawn, State Engineer's Office, Aztec NM