

WCS-PPage
PRJ-13.10

Subject: Navajo Unit Operations Meeting Notes

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is a summary of our August 21, 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 actual inflow to Navajo Reservoir was 488,000 acre-feet, or 75 percent of the 30- year average.

— Releases are currently at 750 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 August 21, 2007 was 6076.24 feet which corresponds to 1,569,200 acre-feet of live storage. This is 113% of the 30-year average for this time of the year.

— A spring peak release was made from the reservoir this year. San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program's (SJRIP) Flow Recommendation called for the 13-Day, 5000 cfs hydrograph release. The spring peak release occurred earlier this year due to above average reservoir elevation and early snow melt runoff. The SJRIP Flow Recommendations statistics were met for the 10-day-2,500 cfs and probably the 21-day-5,000 cfs requirements, though two USGS gauges were non-reporting during part of this period.

—A fall peak release of 5000 cfs for 5 days is currently tentatively scheduled to occur sometime between mid-October and mid-November due to projections of higher than average fall reservoir surface elevation. Once the schedule has been finalized, Reclamation will attempt to provide at least a one-month advance notice to the public.

—The preliminary inflow for 2008 reservoir operation is assumed to be around 95% of the 30 year average for the most probable inflow condition. However, this is very preliminary and will change as updated forecasts become available.

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, January 22, 2008 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-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, RSwickard, JSimons, MChiarito, BDodd, MVelasquez
(ea w/encl)

NAVAJO UNIT OPERATIONS MEETING

August 21, 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.

2007 Water Year Summary

The actual inflow into Navajo Reservoir during April through July 2007 was 488,000 or 75 percent of the 30 year average. The reservoir water surface elevation on August 21, 2007 was 6,076.24 feet which corresponds to 1,569,200 acre-feet of live storage. August daily reservoir inflow is averaging about 1,100 cfs and reservoir releases to the San Juan River are set at 750 cfs. NIIP diversions were set at approximately 570 cfs with an expected shutoff date at the end of October.

A spring peak release was made from the reservoir this year. The San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program's (SJ RIP) Flow Recommendation called for the peak spring release of 13 days at 5000 cfs. Releases were ramped up beginning April 26th, 2007, remained at 5,000 cfs from May 4th through May 16th, and ramped down to 1,300 cfs on May 17th with the release remaining at this flow until June 29th. The peak release volume was approximately 230,000 acre-feet. The SJ RIP Flow Recommendations statistics were met for the 10-day@2,500 cfs and probably the 21-day@5,000 cfs requirements, though two USGS gauges were non-reporting during part of this period.

A fall peak release is currently tentatively scheduled to occur sometime between mid-October and mid-November due to projections of higher than average fall reservoir surface elevation. Approximately 70,000 acre-feet will be released to put the reservoir at a more manageable elevation through the winter. This hydrograph would have a 4-day ramp-up, 5 days at 5,000 cfs, followed by a 4-day ramp down. Even if a lower spring inflow is received, we do not anticipate that a shortage of water for the 2008 water year will occur.

Releases have remained at 750 cfs through the summer and the target base flow through the endangered fish critical habitat area has been maintained. Releases will be adjusted as necessary in order to meet the target base flow recommendations.

Preliminary 2008 Operation

Because a long-term forecast is not available, the proposed operation of the reservoir for 2008 is based on the 30 year historical reservoir inflow statistics. Using this scenario, inflow ranges for the 10%, 50% and 90% probability of exceedence indicate that the most and maximum probable inflow would result in a spring 2008 release of 5,000 cfs for three weeks, while the minimum probable inflow would result in a spring release of 5,000 cfs for 7 days.. However, this is very preliminary and will change as updated forecasts become available.

Agency/Organization Activities and Discussion of Related Activities

New Mexico State Engineer's Office is continuing with installing measurement devices throughout the basin.

Some repair work on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Turley-Manzanares Acequia Improvement Project will need to be made when releases are reduced this winter.

New Mexico State Parks reported they had a great summer. They were happy with the reservoir elevation and the above average releases.

Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) reported that they were planning to shut off water to NIIP for the winter at the mid- to end of October.

The Hammond Project will shut down for the winter the end of October.

Bloomfield Irrigation District stated when the high flows occur it costs them money to protect their diversion site.

Next Meeting - Scheduled for **1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2008** at the Civic Center in Farmington, New Mexico (200 West Arrington Street).

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Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs reported that they are having a good year. ¶

Bob Oxford questioned if any news from the D.C. office concerning the Navajo Nation has been received. Not by the water management group. Other employees working for Reclamation are involved with this item.¶

Attendance List – August 21, 2007 Navajo Operations Meeting

Armijo, Myron, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry, Farmington NM
Bloomfield, Dave, Arizona Public Service, Fruitland NM
Campbell, Dave, US Fish & Wildlife, Albuquerque NM
Chavez, Aaron, San Juan Water Commission, Farmington NM
Crawford, Carroll, Bloomfield Irrigation District, Bloomfield NM
Dennis, Neal, Navajo State Park, Arboles CO
Duncan, Martin, San Juan River Dineh Water Users Assoc., Shiprock NM
Hart, Cheston, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Durango CO
Howe, Michael, BIA , Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, Farmington NM
Lane, Teresa, Hammond Conservancy District, Bloomfield NM
Lynch, Steve, BIA, Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, Farmington NM
Mueller, Steve, New Mexico State Parks, Navajo Dam NM
Nes, Marvin, NAPI, Farmington NM
Nigel, Warren, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Water Division, Dulce NM
Oxford, Bob, Citizen, Farmington NM
Page, Pat, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Secrist, Doug, Navajo State Park, Arboles CO
Simons, John, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Vigil, Warren, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Dulce NM
Warner, Ed, Bureau of Reclamation, Grand Junction CO
Whitmore, Sharon, US Fish & Wildlife, Albuquerque NM
Williams, Shawn, NM State Engineer's Office, Aztec NM