



IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Upper Colorado Regional Office  
125 South State Street, Room 6107  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1147



WCD-PPage  
WTR-4.13

NOV - 9 2009

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Mr. John D'Antonio Jr., PE  
Office of the State Engineer  
State of New Mexico  
P.O. Box 25102  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Subject: Proposed Operating Plan for Navajo Reservoir, Navajo Unit, Colorado River Storage Project, Colorado and New Mexico

Dear Mr D'Antonio:

Public Law 87-483, Section 11, directs the Bureau of Reclamation to apportion shortages to entitled users of Navajo Reservoir storage water, on a pro-rata basis, in the event shortages are anticipated. While current conditions (inflow forecast and reservoir content) indicate that a shortage is not likely in the near future, notwithstanding the direction provided in Section 11, a group of ten water users have developed an agreement among themselves as to how they will allocate the water supply in a drought situation (*Recommendations for San Juan River Operations and Administration for 2009-2012, January 29, 2009*).

Because Reclamation has no ability to control or influence agreements among water users, and because this agreement among the users will not cause Reclamation to undertake any change in its operations from how we would operate under Section 11, the recommendations fall within our anticipated operating plan for 2009 through 2012. We also anticipate that operations under Section 11 will not cause releases to fall below the minimum allowable release rate from Navajo Dam.

We have received endorsement letters from the following Navajo Unit contractors and subcontractors, all endorsing this same plan:

Arizona Public Service Company (APS)  
BHP-Billiton  
Hammond Conservancy District  
Jicarilla Apache Nation  
Navajo Nation  
Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM)

In addition, we have received similar letters of endorsement from the following entities:

Bloomfield Irrigation District  
 City of Farmington  
 Farmers Mutual Ditch  
 Jewett Valley Ditch

While Reclamation recognizes these recommendations as a temporary solution to providing some means of water rights administration, we encourage the State Engineer to continue proceeding towards promulgation of rules and regulations for administering water rights within the San Juan River Basin in New Mexico. Also, please be advised that Reclamation's acknowledgement of these recommendations does not constitute endorsement of any disclaimers included in any parties' endorsement letter.

I offer my thanks to you and the staff members of the Office of the State Engineer and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission who helped facilitate the development of these recommendations.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Pat Page at 970-385-6560.

Sincerely,



Larry Walkoviak  
 Regional Director

cc: Honorable Joe Shirley, Jr.  
 President, Navajo Nation  
 P.O. Box 9000  
 Window Rock, AZ 86515

Carroll Crawford  
 Bloomfield Irrigation District  
 P.O. Box 606  
 Bloomfield, NM 87413

Honorable Levi Pesata  
 President, Jicarilla Apache Nation  
 P.O. Box 709  
 Dulce, NM 87528

Cindy Murray  
 Public Service Company of New Mexico  
 2401 Aztec N.E.  
 Albuquerque, NM 87107

Russell Smith, President  
 Hammond Conservancy District  
 790 Road 4990  
 Bloomfield, NM 87413

Ken Nordlander  
 Arizona Public Service Company  
 P.O. Box 53999  
 Phoenix, AZ 85072-3999

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cc: Continued from previous page.

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BHP Billiton  
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Farmington, NM 87401

James Rogers  
Jewett Valley Water Users Association  
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Waterflow, NM 87421

David Campbell  
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office  
Fish & Wildlife Service  
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John Whipple  
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission  
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Robert Genualdi  
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100 South Oliver Drive  
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Lawrence Stock  
Farmers Mutual Ditch  
P.O. Box 467  
Kirtland, NM 87417

Honorable William E. Standley  
Mayor of Farmington  
800 Municipal Drive  
Farmington, NM 87401

John Leeper  
Navajo Nation  
Water Management Branch  
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