

APPENDIX F

Public Comments and Agency Responses

2 Also, on Page 21, 2nd paragraph, it states that water can be supplied from Red Lake. This is incorrect. Our only source of irrigation water is from Asaayi Lake. Farmers located on the southern part of Red Lake in Navajo, New Mexico, have access to water from Red Lake. For your information, water that is released from Asaayi Lake into Todhildonth Wash can replenish Red Lake.

3 In closing, on behalf of all the farmers that are being affected by this rehabilitation project, I would like to request for your assistance in diverting any water that is released from Asaayi Lake into the irrigation pipe so that we can irrigate our fields during the months of May through August. All we need is water and we will manage our fields ourselves. I feel that we should utilize this water in a productive manner instead of releasing it into Todhildonth Wash.

Thank you for your understanding and if you have any questions, please call me on my cell phone at (505)870-5909 or leave a message at my home phone (928)871-4737.

Sincerely,



Linda Laughing
Landuser-Asaayi Lake Farming Area
P.O. Box 605
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

xc: John Leeper, Safety of Dams, Department of Water Resources
: Arvin S. Trujillo, Executive Director, Division of Natural Resources
: Dan Bloedol, NRCS-St. Michaels Office

Response to Letter of Comment from Linda Laughing

1. Thank you for your input. The irrigation pipeline installed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2002 has not performed as intended due to low lake levels that have resulted from SOD drawdown. The reduction in head from the drawdown has significantly reduced flow in the pipeline. Under the Preferred Action, the new outlet works would substantially improve reliability of the irrigation system by drawing water from the bottom of the lake and delivering it under pressure to the pipeline. We anticipate water deliveries would be possible no later than 2009. Without the project, future water deliveries will continue to be problematic and possibly nonexistent, particularly if further drawdown of the lake is required to address safety concerns.

2. We have corrected this discussion in the final EA.

3. The SOD project will have a long-term beneficial effect for downstream farmers. Reclamation engineers examined possible options for conveying stream water from the temporary bypass pipe to the irrigation pipeline during construction. All the options considered presented significant logistical problems which could not be easily overcome due to economic constraints. Project planners will attempt to phase construction in such a manner so as to bring the outlet works online and restore irrigation releases as quickly as possible.