

## COMMENT LETTER

## RESPONSES

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MEMORYMANN

T-967 P-001 SEP 06 '00 09:04

6 September 2000

Verna Forbes Willson (Mrs.)  
Post Office Box 2778  
Farmington, NM 87499-2778

Ms. Janet Steele, Attention: BCOO-4601  
Post Office Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

SUBJECT: Colorado River Interim Surplus Criteria:  
INT-DES 00-25

Dear Ms. Steele

My only comment on the DSEIS for the subject surplus criteria is this:

"Although the states of New Mexico and Colorado will be those most impacted by a decision that any of their water from either the Animas or San Juan Rivers which drain into the Colorado River might be considered surplus, not one of your meetings prior to opening your DSEIS for public comment was held in either state. How can the public comment on anything from which they have been excluded by distance, lack of information as to meeting dates, and secrecy?"

I do have two more questions: How can one intelligently comment when one is not informed that one will be impacted by the dealings of Big Government in situations such as this? Although our appointed local San Juan Water Commission MAY have been informed, our elected representatives on the three City Councils in San Juan County, NM were not made privy to the situation. Why not?

Sincerely,

*Verna Forbes Willson*

1: The EIS was prepared in close coordination with our Upper Colorado Regional Office in Salt Lake City, Utah. We have relied upon their involvement along with input from stakeholders of the Upper Basin states during the scoping, document preparation and public review processes to ensure Upper Basin issues and concerns are adequately addressed in the EIS. It is not accurate to consider water from the Animas or San Juan rivers, or any other of the Upper Basin tributaries, as surplus. It is only water in Lake Mead that the Secretary could make available for use in the Lower Division states that would be considered "surplus." Impacts of the surplus alternatives to the Upper Basin are limited to changes that may occur to the water levels in Lake Powell.