



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lower Colorado Regional Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470



IN REPLY REFER TO:
ENV-3.00
LC-2632

APR 14 2005

CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. James Garrison
State Historic Preservation Officer
Arizona State Parks
Attn: Mr. Bill Collins
1300 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

SUBJECT: Request for Concurrence of Eligibility and Determinations of Effect for the Wellton-Mohawk Title Transfer Report on Irrigation System and Facilities

Dear Mr. Garrison:

Enclosed please find a report entitled: *Inventory and Documentation of the Irrigation System of the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project*, dated February 2005, for your review. The cultural inventory was performed in conjunction with the proposed transfer of approximately 46,000 acres of irrigation facilities and adjacent Bureau of Reclamation lands to the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project. The title transfer was authorized by Public Law (P.L.) 106-221 on June 20, 2000. The enclosed report covers one of three related studies conducted by Statistical Research Inc. (SRI), under contract with CMX LLC, necessary to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Archaeology and Traditional Cultural Properties reports will be submitted to your office at a later date.

By way of background, the Gila Project is comprised of two divisions: the Yuma Mesa and Wellton-Mohawk. The Gila Project was authorized for investigation by the Boulder Canyon Act in 1928, although construction was not approved until 1933. The Wellton-Mohawk irrigation system was built between 1949 and 1957 and the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (WMIDD) was created to administer the irrigation project. The Wellton-Mohawk Division, a state-chartered agency, begins 12 miles east of Yuma and extends easterly for approximately 45 miles. Today, the system is fully operational despite its many historically significant components.

Scope of Work and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Recommendations

For consistency, Reclamation suggested that SRI follow the sampling design and systems approach used to record and evaluate the historic Yuma Project irrigation facilities (Pfaff et al. 1999). For the Wellton-Mohawk project, 79 features or buildings (of 479 features associated with the operation of the system) were evaluated for the NRHP. These features are assigned to one of five property types: water storage & delivery; construction; ongoing support; settlement; and power. Various sub-types are also indicated.

The Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation System has local, regional and national significance and is eligible for nomination to the NRHP (Criterion a and c) based on its historic and engineering significance. In short, the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project attracted settlers from across the nation and helped fulfill Reclamation's mandate to transform previously undeveloped land into productive farmland. Furthermore, its engineering achievements include a series of canals, tunnels, and siphons that transport water from the Colorado River upstream to the Gila Project.

In addition to the eligibility of the overall Wellton-Mohawk's irrigation system, a number of irrigation buildings or structures built before 1954 are considered individually eligible or are viewed as contributing elements of the overall system. The period of significance is 1933-1961 (Development and Construction of the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project) however features post-dating 1954 are not considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP at this time. Table 2 (Thompson and Sterner 2005) lists the 79 representative or unique features (of 479 recorded features; see Thompson and Sterner 2005: Table 1) recorded and evaluated by SRI. The eligibility recommendation and property types are summarized in the following table:

Property Type/Subtype	Name	Individually Eligible	Contributing Elements; Criterion a-d	Non-contributing/ Not eligible
Construction/ Support	WMIDD Headquarters Complex/Government Camp	X (a, c)	X (a, c)	
"	Government Camp Buildings #1-6; 8-10; 12, 13, and 15-22		19 buildings (a, c)	
"	Government Camp Buildings #7, 11, and 14 (total 3)			3 buildings
Support	Dome ditchrider's house		X (a, c)	
"	Wellton-Mohawk Main Conveyance Channel		X (a, c)	
"	Drainage well and stand box		X (a, c)	
"	Drainage well and discharge pipe		X (a, c)	
Water storage & delivery/Conveyance	Wellton-Mohawk Canal		X (a, c)	
"	Wellton Canal		X (a, c)	
"	Mohawk Canal		X (a, c)	
"	Dome Canal		X (a, c)	
"	Texas Hill Canal		X (a, c)	
"	SPRR tunnel		X (a, c)	

Water storage & delivery/Conveyance, Protective	Wash siphon, Wellton-Mohawk Canal (Station 7+14.48)		X (a, c)	
“	Wash siphon, Wellton-Mohawk Canal (Station 151+58.21)		X (a, c)	
“	Wash siphon, Wellton-Mohawk Canal (Station 822+17.17)		X (a, c)	
Water storage & delivery/Misc.	Footbridge, Texas Hill Canal		X (a, c)	
“	Bridge, Ave. 21 E			X
“	Bridge Ave. 36 E			X
“	Bridge Ave. 38 E			X
Water storage & delivery/Protective	Pipe crossing, Wellton-Mohawk Canal		X (a, c)	
“	Wasteway No. 1, Wellton-Mohawk Canal		X (a, c)	
“	Drainage inlet, Wellton-Mohawk Canal		X (a, c)	
“	Wash overchutes, Wellton-Mohawk 00024 Canal (Stations 660=00; 661+16)		X (a, c)	
“	Wash overchute, Wellton-Mohawk 00178 Canal		X (a, c)	
“	Mohawk protective dike No. 1		X (a, c)	
“	Culvert, Mohawk protective dike No. 1		X (a, c)	
“	Ligurta floodway channel		X (a, c)	
“	Wasteway, Mohawk Canal		X (a, c)	
“	Spillway, Wellton Canal		X (a, c)	
Water storage & delivery/Regulating	Wellton-Mohawk check and turnout		X (a, c)	
“	Turnout, Wellton-Mohawk Canal 0.6		X (a, c)	
“	Turnout, Dome Canal		X (a, c)	
“	Pumping Plant No. 1	X (a, c)	X (a, c)	
“	Pumping Plant No. 2	X (a, c)	X (a, c)	
“	Pumping Plant No. 3	X (a, c)	X (a, c)	

“	Relift pump, Dome 9.7 turnout		X (a, c)	
“	Relift pumps, Mohawk 18.8 lateral		X (a, c)	
“	Relift pumps, Mohawk 23.7 lateral		X (a, c)	
“	Relift station, Texas Hill Canal 2.5		X (a, c)	
“	Turnout, Wellton-Mohawk Canal 5.4		X (a, c)	
“	Turnout, Texas Hill Canal		X (a, c)	
“	Turnout, Texas Hill 2.5 lateral		X (a, c)	
“	Turnout, Texas Hill 3.9 lateral		X (a, c)	
“	Turnout, Dome 9.3 lateral		X (a, c)	
“	Turnout, Mohawk 12.5 lateral		X (a, c)	
“	Turnout, Mohawk 28.9 lateral		X (a, c)	
“	Turnout, Mohawk 36.9 lateral		X (a, c)	
“	Turnout, Wellton 19.7 lateral (left)		X (a, c)	
“	Radial gate check, Dome Canal 1.4		X (a, c)	
“	Radial gate check with siphon, dome Canal 2.1		X (a, c)	
“	Radial gate check, Dome Canal 3.6		X (a, c)	
“	Slide gate check with drop, Dome Canal 8.4		X (a, c)	
“	Drop, Mohawk 18.0 lateral		X (a, c)	
“	Slide drop, Mohawk 26.6 lateral		X (a, c)	
“	Radial gate check, Mohawk Canal 21.2		X (a, c)	
“	Radial gate check with drop, Mohawk Canal 37.1		X (a, c)	
“	Slide gate check, Mohawk Canal 46.9		X (a, c)	
“	Radial gate check with drop, Wellton Canal 9.9		X (a, c)	

“	Slide gate check, Texas Hill Canal 6.5		X (a, c)	
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Assessment of Effects and Proposed Treatments to Historic Properties

The proposed transfer of the Wellton-Mohawk facilities has the potential to affect the characteristics and qualities that make it eligible for nomination to the NRHP. Per 36 CFR 800.5 (vii), the transfer of land from federal ownership is considered an adverse effect without legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to preserve long-term preservation of the property's historic significance. The agreed upon conditions and restrictions will be addressed in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between consulting parties. At a minimum, the following treatment measures are proposed:

Multiple Property Submission

The Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project should be nominated for listing in the NRHP using a multiple property submission format.

Individually Eligible features:

Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) Level II documentation is recommended for Pumping Plants 1, 2, and 3 and for recording the environmental setting and streetscapes of the headquarters complex. If addition or alterations are necessary in the future, the Secretary of Interior's Standards for historic preservation projects should be followed.

Contributing Elements:

- **Government Camp:** Due to past removal and/or replacement of the main headquarters buildings, the 22 houses in the government camp represent the historic component of the headquarters. The buildings are vernacular styling and typical of ca. 1950s government housing. As illustrated in the report, the houses lack distinctive architectural elements. Furthermore, eleven houses (#s 6-10 and 13-17) are converted barracks moved to the government camp from the Yuma Army Airfield. In lieu of these facts, we feel that HABS/HAER Level I or II documentation would be adequate treatment for the 19 eligible residences.
- **Unique Contributing Properties:** HABS/HAER Level II documentation is recommended for the four contributing elements: Wasteway No. 1 on the Wellton-Mohawk Canal; self-regulating radial gate check; Dome Canal 1.4; Wellton 9.9 radial gate check with drop; and relift station, Texas Hill Canal 2.5. For the remaining contributing features, Reclamation believes that the level of recordation in this report (Thompson and Sterner 2005) is sufficient and that no further work should be required.

Immediate Action

Reclamation and WMIDD would like to demolish four converted barracks at the government camp (#s 7, 9, 14, and 17) in the very near future. The plan is to build modern houses in those locations. Two of the four houses (#s 9 and 17) are recommended as eligible (contributing elements) for nomination to the NRHP under Criterion a and c.

There are several reasons for this action. For one, these houses contain asbestos and lead paint and are currently undergoing remediation. More importantly, the houses were originally built for temporary use, are poorly insulated, and do not meet the electrical needs of modern households. Furthermore, Reclamation and WMIDD are keenly aware of the shortage of affordable housing in the Wellton area. Thus, the availability of modern employee housing will help attract well-qualified employees to this rural community.

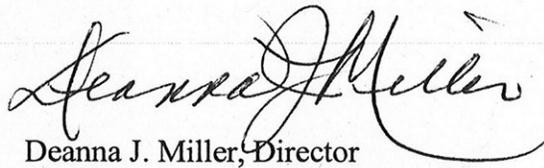
Reclamation and WMIDD would like to demolish the four houses after the agreed upon treatments have been implemented and hazardous materials are removed. Demolition is likely to precede the official transfer of title but will nonetheless be discussed in the MOA.

Summary

In summary, we request your concurrence on the overall significance of the Wellton-Mohawk irrigation system, and the individual eligibility of four properties: the WMIDD Headquarters Complex (including 22 recorded government camp houses), and Pumping Plants No. 1, 2, and 3. The four properties are also considered contributing elements of the eligible Wellton-Mohawk irrigation facility. We also request concurrence on the eligibility of an additional 51 contributing elements of Wellton-Mohawk Division irrigation system. Six other recorded features are recommended as non-contributing elements of the system. We would also appreciate your comments on the effects of the undertaking and the treatments proposed to mitigate the adverse effects of the title transfer and demolition of two NRHP eligible government houses.

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss eligibility or proposed mitigation, please contact archeologist, Ms. Renee Kolvet by phone at 702 293-8443, or by email at rkolvet@lc.usbr.gov. We look forward to working with you on the irrigation facilities portion of the Wellton-Mohawk Title Transfer project.

Sincerely,



Deanna J. Miller, Director
Resources Management Office

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Larry Killman, Greystone Environmental Consultants, 29851 Mountain View,
Wellton, AZ 85356
Ms. Sheila Logan, CMX LLC, 7740 North 16th Street, Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85020