Comment PH-02

NAVAJO-GALLUP WATER SUPPLY PROJECT
PLANNING REPORT
AND
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC HEARING
May 23, 2007

Crownpoint Chapter House
Crownpoint, New Mexico

REPORTED BY:
Tanya M. Nims, CCR #168
TRATTEL COURT REPORTING & VIDEOGRAPHY
P.O. Box 36297
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

Susannah Thomas, Hearing Officer, United States
Department of the Interior, Office of the Field
Solicitor, Salt Lake City, Utah

Rege Leach, Bureau of Reclamation Project Team Leader,
Western Colorado Area Office, Durango, Colorado

Carol DeAngelis, Bureau of Reclamation Area Manager,
Western Colorado Area Office, Grand Junction,
Colorado

Bernadette Tsosie, Regional Hydrologist, Bureau of
Indian Affairs, Navajo Area Office, Gallup, New
Mexico

Michael Benson, Navajo Nation, Department of Water
Resources

Joanna Austin-Manygoats, Interpreter
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**Please note that Leo Martin was speaker 2 PH 11 (pg 43)**
WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2007, 6:16 P.M.

MR. BENSON: We're going to begin right now. We have a number of people that want to speak, and there may have to be full interpretation. We'll see right now.

My name is Michael Benson. I'm just going to give a short introductory statement as to what will take place here; and then you'll hear from the hearing officer the rules for tonight.

But first I'd like to ask who -- is there somebody here that wants the whole proceedings interpreted?

(At this time, Mr. Benson spoke in Navajo.)

MR. BENSON: So the whole proceedings will be in Navajo and English.

Thank you very much, Ladies and Gentlemen, for being here. We're here tonight to talk about the Environmental -- Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.

As many of you know, the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project involves two pipelines. And the reason for the project is that we found through Gallup's experience that if you rely on groundwater, you won't have water to last you forever. Right now some of Gallup's wells are the deepest in the USA, over one mile down.

And it's the same for the rest of us in New
Mexico, the Navajo communities as well. If we depend on groundwater, that is going to be depleted sooner or later. So we need renewable surface water from the San Juan River.

So we're -- and the project involves two pipelines, one from Cutter Reservoir near Navajo Dam, which would take water on the east -- of the eastern edge of the Navajo Reservation from Huerfano, Nageezi to Torreon, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado to Whitehorse Lake.

And there can be spurs off of that later on if needed to for Lake Valley and other chapters in the center, as well as from the other pipeline, which would run between Shiprock and Gallup and -- which would have a major lateral going off at Twin Lakes to Window Rock and then also to Dalton Pass.

And the reason why it doesn't go to Crownpoint is because there's already NTUA lines that go to Dalton Pass to Crownpoint. So from there on, the water could be put in the system; and it goes to this regional system that includes right now Crownpoint, Littlewater, and eventually Becenti and Standing Rock.

The Environmental Impact Statement, whenever the federal government is going to commit funds to a project, by law there has to be an Environmental Impact Statement to examine the impacts on all living things, on the land,
the water, the air; and to discuss people's concerns.

And it starts off with scoping meetings. And these were held for this project in 2001. There was a meeting here back then to talk about this project. And now the environmental -- the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been completed. And by law that has to be put forth to the people again to comment on it.

So tonight you're going to be commenting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. And it's not a question and answer thing, as will be explained to you shortly from the panel here. Mainly, the panel up here is going to listen to your comments. But there isn't an opportunity to answer questions.

We have staff here that you can talk to after the formal hearing that you can ask questions of, from Navajo Nation Water Management and also from Bureau of Reclamation.

(At this time, Mr. Benson spoke in Navajo.)

MR. BENSON: Did I forget anything? I believe that's it. I'd like to now go to introductions of some of our notable officials that are here. Ray Gilmore, Chair of the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission is here. Katie Gilbert, a member of the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission. Benjamin Cowboy, the Eastern Agency
1 representative to the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission is here. Wally Toledo, Chapter Coordinator from Torreon Chapter is here. Leo Charlie, the Vice President from Torreon Chapter is here.

Frank Chee Willetto, the President from Pueblo Pintado Chapter is here. Chee Smith, Jr., past President of Whitehorse Lake Chapter is here. And also we have Lloyd Ayliffe, a former member of the San Juan Water Commission and currently working for the cities of Bloomfield and Aztec; and he also oversees the Lybrook water system -- is also with us.

We have former New Mexico State Senator Leonard Tsosie, who is currently the Council Delegate for Pueblo Pintado, Whitehorse, and Torreon Chapters is also with us.

Jeff Kiely, Deputy Director for the Northwest McKinley -- Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments. And, sorry, Patty. I should have put you first.

Patty Lundstrom is Chair of the Steering Committee for this project for about 15 years now?

MS. LUNDSTROM: 15 years.

MR. BENSON: 15 years. And as you know also State Representative, the state of New Mexico, representing part of Gallup and also the Navajo chapters.

Most of her constituents are Navajos.
We have Harrilene Yazee, who is the BIA Regional NEPA Coordinator.
And please inform me if any more of our dignitaries and officials come.
Roger Toledo, Vice President of Ojo Encino Chapter we are honored to have here as well -- Torreon.
Sorry. Torreon Chapter.
And most importantly I'd like to introduce to you the people that are going to be hearing your comments tonight. First of all, Carol DeAngelis, Area Manager for the Bureau of Reclamation. Rege Leach, the Planning Team Leader for the Bureau of Reclamation.
Susannah Thomas is the regional -- from the Regional Solicitor's Office; and she's the Hearing Officer. In a little while she'll tell you the rules that we have to follow for this hearing. We have Joanna Austin-Manygoats, who is our interpreter tonight.
And I'm going to be the timekeeper. How many minutes are we giving them?

THE HEARING OFFICER: I'll let them know.

MR. BENSON: But when your time is coming close, I might use this one. I will show you two minutes. And then when you have one minute left, I'll show you this. And then last night I didn't have to use this, so please don't make me use it. Thank you very much.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Good evening and welcome to this meeting. This public meeting is being conducted pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, which is referred to as NEPA. And the purpose of this open house is to hear your comments, thoughts, and views on the proposed project.

The representatives of the federal government here today are prepared to take your comments and thoughts back to the decision-makers for this project.

And while we are prepared to answer your questions with regard to factual matters, we are not here to engage in discussions about the relative merits of this project or its alternatives as discussed in the NEPA documents. Simply put: We're here to listen.

Whether you choose to make your comments orally or provide us your comments in writing, they will both be considered equally. We will address all comments as part of the Final Environmental Impact Statement process, or what we refer to as the FEIS.

We are aware that there is a connection between the project that is the subject of tonight's meeting and the overall settlement of the Nation's water rights claims on the San Juan River. We are also aware that there has been legislation introduced by Senators Bingaman and Domenici that would resolve the water rights settlement in
part by authorizing the construction of this project. But as of this time, the administration has taken no position with regard to the settlement. And because this meeting is about the project and not about the settlement, we ask that you direct any comments or concerns you may have about the overall settlement to your elected officials. The meeting will end around 9 o'clock tonight to get everybody home at a reasonable hour. In order to do that, we ask that you limit your presentation to 10 minutes. We have a timekeeper, Mr. Benson, to keep us on time and we ask that you please observe his time notices as he holds them up. We will now proceed in the order of the names on the speaker sign-in list. Before you begin your comments, we'd appreciate it if you can please state your name so our court reporter can put it in there, and I'll read your name to have you come up. And I will apologize if I say them wrong, so. And then after we hear comments from those on the list, if time permits we invite anyone else who would like to come and give us your comments. And, again, if you'll please give us your name and be sure to keep your comments to 10 minutes. Thank you. Okay. We'd like to first hear from --
MR. TSOSIE: Could I ask that you give additional
time to our elders that are going to speak in Navajo? And
it's also not too polite to cut them off. So if you could
take that into account also because they have a lot to say
about this.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
MR. TSOSIE: Thanks.
THE HEARING OFFICER: We'd like to begin with
Mr. Andrew Robertson. And we have a chair here for you to
come sit in, and we'd like you to use your microphone.
STATEMENT BY ANDREW ROBERTSON
MR. ROBERTSON: It's tough signing up first, I
guess. My name is Andrew Robertson. I'm a civil engineer
with Souder, Miller & Associates. And I live in
Albuquerque.
And the reason I'm here is that as an engineer
I've been working on water projects in various chapters
throughout Eastern Navajo Agency for the last seven years,
so even though I don't live in this area I've had a chance
to see firsthand the need for water.
It is very real. It is very dire, and it is very
urgent. I visited a friend in the hospital a few years
ago who was hospitalized. I don't want to get into too
much of the details, but she was at the UNM Hospital for
about three or four days and had to have surgery. And the
doctor said it was a direct result of not having enough water. And it was sustained dehydration -- or chronic dehydration over a period of years.

Another friend of mine, his father had his leg amputated below the knee because he is diabetic and he did not have water to wash his pressure sores. This is because he did not have water.

Now, we all know that no project is a panacea. No one water project is going to solve all the water needs on the Navajo Nation or northwest New Mexico at once. However, this project will go a long way. In this area, a lot of these wells are dropping rapidly in the Torreon Chapter.

The State of New Mexico Environmental Department has issued an emergency certificate because of the drawdown in the -- of the chapter's wells. And there are schools in this area that have -- either are not able to be built or in some cases buildings that actually are going to have to be abandoned because there's not adequate water supply to feed the schools. And I'm sure there are others here who can speak to that and more in depth.

There are housing developments, businesses, economic development that have been denied because they can't get a commercial water hookup. So it's a really serious problem.
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Most of the projects that I've been working on have been in coordination with NTUA and Indian Health Service. And I can say that there are at least four IHS projects that I know of in the Torreon and Ojo Encino area alone which would serve probably about 8 or 9 hundred people that are not being built at this time because there's not -- even though there's funding available to extend the water lines, there is not enough water to fill the pipes. The pipes would be full of air. And that problem will not go away until a water supply is made available to those chapters.

Now, having addressed the need, then the question is, is this project the most efficient way to solve that problem? Again, as a civil engineer having looked at this for a number of years, I believe that it is.

I've looked -- I won't say that I've studied the EIS to the same level of depth that you all have, but from what I do know about it, I would say that the Preferred Alternative is the way to go.

I would certainly encourage as much value engineering as possible to make sure that the costs are reasonable and this project remains economically feasible. As the saying goes, "The slightly smaller project you build is better than the bigger project you don't build." So I would certainly encourage that.
But on the whole, I strongly support this project because it is necessary, it is the most efficient way to bring people water, and the benefit is incalculable. There are plenty of analyses that do quantify the benefits in terms of how many people are not going to require as many medical services because of the public health would be better, how many jobs it will create, how many schools it will allow, how many housing developments it would provide, how it's going to help the population; people stay at home rather than having to move to the cities because there's no water.

All of that can be quantified, but really the human benefit of this is incalculable and invaluable, in my opinion. Finally, I would like to also say that as an Albuquerque resident -- obviously, I don't speak on behalf of the City of Albuquerque. I'm not the mayor. I can maybe speak on behalf of my street or something. This project will not directly affect the city of Albuquerque; however, again, in my personal opinion, the overall settlement will benefit the city.

I realize this is not about the settlement, it's about the project. I just wanted to throw that in.

Again, I strongly support this project, and I urge that it would be built as quickly as possible. Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Robertson.
We'd next to like to hear from Mr. Chee Smith.

STATEMENT BY CHEE SMITH, JR.

MR. SMITH: My name is Chee Smith, Jr., former chapter President for Whitehorse Lake. My clans are Naakai, Tx'áásh Chi'i, Ta'neeszhahnii, and Bit'ahnii. I basically have a couple of questions and two concerns.

The reason why I came to this public hearing is reading in the papers about this public hearing, I didn't see Whitehorse Lake on there. The line just goes as far as Pueblo Pintado. So I was wondering why Whitehorse Lake is not in the picture. That will be my main question.

Whitehouse Lake is 35 miles east of here. And our people, that's -- really need water like anybody else. Our people from Whitehorse Lake, they travel daily to haul water from Crownpoint. It takes a beating on their vehicles, and they haul barrels back and forth for -- to cook, to do laundry, order livestock.

And imagine people having to travel long distance everyday just for water, even for just drinking. So I think this project would be worthwhile for our people, for these Navajo Chapters -- of the Navajo Chapters.

The other area is that we have a canyon between Pueblo Pintado and Whitehorse Lake. I think it's seven miles that's kind of hilly. So if there's a way we can cut through that to run the pipes through the canyon, that
Due to no water, Whitehorse cannot get housing. That's one of the requirements that NHA requires. And when there's no water, there's no developments. So we're kind of still like in the -- kind of like a third-world nation. So we don't have a lot of these things that people have.

And just like Mr. Robertson said, that's why I think people end up having to move to the city. So we need your support on this water, getting it down to Whitehorse Lake.

Then my last comment. Reading in The Independent it said that the city of Gallup is going to run out of water in 10 years. And I was thinking, why does the city build a laundromat and a car wash almost like every month?

And our people go -- a lot of our Navajo people, they go to Gallup and they spend a lot of their moneys into these border towns, and they don't really get anything back from the city.

So I think if the city, the border towns, and the tribe could work together to help our Navajos, that would also be appreciated. I think it's a very worthwhile project. And we desperately are in need of good drinking water for years to come. Thank you very much.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

We're going to turn the time over to Mr. Rege Leach for a moment. He's going to address one of the factual issues on the Draft EIS that Mr. Smith asked about.

STATEMENT BY REGE LEACH

MR. LEACH: I'd like to just answer this. I have one minute. I'm going to be flagged out here. I won't take too much time.

The question on water for Pueblo Pintado and Whitehorse Lake, the project is designed for a future water supply projected out 40 years, a 40-year water supply for Pueblo Pintado and Whitehorse Lake. The water treatment plant, the pumping plants, and the pipeline is designed to carry that quantity of the water. And today what we have is that water being delivered at Counselor.

Now, if it is more appropriate depending on what the development of the specific pipelines to Pueblo Pintado or Whitehorse Lake might look like, it may be -- if it's more efficient to come from Crownpoint, it could come from that point as well.

So my point is there is water available in the design and the cost estimates for this pipeline for Pueblo Pintado and Whitehorse Lake.

Now, the project only takes water -- this project is a main distribution -- or main transmission system for
1 treated water to common points, which what we see in this
2 map are the -- it's these blue circles which are storage
3 tanks. And so this project would end at that point.
4 Now, pipelines that the chapters would build,
5 that IHS would build, that NTUA would eventually take over
6 operation, maintenance, those would be beyond the scope of
7 what we're talking about in this project. This project is
8 just treating the water, taking it to common points where
9 it's picked up and delivered to the homes.
10 Does that answer your question?
11 MR. SMITH: Yes.
12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Before we move on to the
13 next speaker, a few more people who need to be introduced
14 have come in. So I'm going to let Mr. Benson do that.
15 MR. BENSON: Mitchell Capitan, Crownpoint Chapter
16 President. BIA Superintendent Duane Bird Bear. Thank you
17 for being here.
18 THE HEARING OFFICER: We'd next like to hear from
19 Mr. Tom Becenti. Mr. Becenti.
20 STATEMENT BY TOM BECENTI
21 MR. BECENTI: Thank you. You all Navajo or you
22 understand Navajo? Not really. I don't know which way to
23 try, Navajo or English. But I think I prefer go ahead
24 Navajo. They can listen and they can get an idea.
25 My name is Tom B. Becenti. Retired Chief Becenti
of the courts of the Navajo Nation. And I also chapter
official for 13 years. McKinley County in education
committee for 14 years. And other various committees.
And that now as a rancher. I'll go ahead express myself
in Navajo.

(Through the Interpreter) Mr. Tom Becenti, he
spoke about his work and his experience in the world. At
the present time, he's a rancher. And he wanted to thank
everybody for coming to this public meeting. And he
disagreed and disapproved of the five-minute time line.
He says that you can't get anything done within the time
line of five minutes.

And he spoke directly to the Gallup-McKinley,
Navajo, and Jicarilla two pipelines. He's thinking that
there's two proposals. He prefers the proposal from the
Shiprock to Gallup, an alternative that would be
beneficial to this proposal.

However, he thinks that the Jicarilla pipeline is
a little more difficult just because there are the
jurisdictional issues and the right-of-way problems that
the people will face in the future.

He says that if we are all thinking in the -- if
we're all on the same page, we're all doing this for the
survival of our people, for the survival of our
grandchildren.
I prefer the Gallup-Shiprock route, which is most suitable. Even though there's homes in the area, you can go around these homes to make the route a little more accessible. I'm very supportive. There's enough -- if there's enough support for this project, it will benefit a lot of people.

So if we cooperate and work together, be informed -- keep us informed, the challenge will be a lot smoother. And we are all aware that there are people among us that will misconceive the water supply proposal. Many of us will get defensive because we're thinking that, "Oh, here comes somebody else trying to take our land away or trying to maneuver their way through our Reservation."

I think the cost of the project should be economical; that way it's easier to implement. I really appreciate the fact that you're planning within the 40-year foresight for our grandchildren to use the water in the future. Our population is increasing. And it really is beneficial if we all work together.

We'd like to see a big -- a large size pipeline. Don't give us these small pipelines to connect to our residence. Again, I want to say that we need to cooperate with each other. And I appreciate you all working on this project to attain the goal.

And he goes on to say that we respect -- we
should respect each other regardless of who we are. We're all people. We all have the same needs, and we need to work together. And I want this to go on record. That's why I'm asking that we respect each other.

I know that there's a time limit, and I must say this. There were people that have brought and built the Navajo Dam, and it is built. It was a huge undertaking. Clint Anderson, Mr. Montoya, and Stewart Udall were the lead persons on this project. And Paul Jones was at the time the Navajo Nation President who signed the document. Again, thank you for being here. And I'm in support of this project.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Becenti.

We'd next like to here from Ms. Dorothy Becenti.

STATEMENT BY DOROTHY BECENTI

MS. BECENTI: (Through the Interpreter) Dorothy Becenti. Thank you, my children, for being here and those of you among us in the audience. There are -- we were one people at one time, and now we are all different people. But we must work together to make our dreams happen.

I think this proposal is excellent. It's very good. Many times over we -- we live in the community of Becenti. I represent several committees. I sit on several committees, but my point will be specific to the Crownpoint Hospital. I want to ask why are doctors always
leaving the area? Well, my husband's theory is that's because we don't have any water. They don't have a place to swim. They don't have golf courses to relax. That's their lifestyle, he keeps telling me.

And I believe that's a fact because our children have that type of lifestyle. What are they going to do many years down the road? We elders have hauled our water for 30 years now. From where we used to live it was 18 miles round trip to Crownpoint. Now we live 20 miles round trip hauling our water.

But we need water. And many of us elders would like to have water in their homes. When we move back to Crownpoint at one time when we were younger, there was convenient stores. There was even a hotel here and a shoe shop. That was during the uranium mining activities.

Now all those places are closed. The waters were capped. But I am -- but I am a hundred percent supportive of this project. I want to thank you again for giving me the time to submit my comments orally. Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Ms. Becenti.

We'd next like to hear from Mr. Leonard Tsosie.

STATEMENT BY LEONARD TSOSIE

(At this time, Mr. Tsosie spoke briefly in Navajo.)

MR. TSOSIE: My name is Leonard Tsosie. I'm a
Council Delegate with Navajo Nation Council. I used to be a former State Senator with the State of New Mexico. And I was just elected last November and took office in January. This is a legislature within the Navajo Nation government. I represent Whitehorse Lake, Pueblo Pintado, and Torreon Chapters, right in the heart of this project. And so I just want to say that the communities regard the water project as a priority. It's a priority. And they've been waiting a lifetime for this. When I was in the state legislature, only one water line was proposed; and that was along the route between Shiprock and Gallup.

And at that time I strenuously opposed it because the people in this area need water too. And then later on it was changed, and it has a two-prone process now. And we appreciate that now because it benefits people on both sides, and it helps more of the Navajo people that I represent.

On the way over I saw a rainbow over Crownpoint, and it was a good sign. And so I just want to mention that. And I think it's a blessing. And also rain. I saw raindrops. So that's a blessing. It's a blessing because this is a matter of survival for our people and for the communities. You already heard about the brain drain and the
people drain. And that's going to continue to happen if this project is not built. No water, no socioeconomic development. Whitehorse Lake Chapter, I'm aware of, has applied many times for housing to HUD, Housing and Urban Development. They have been denied every time because there is no water.

Pueblo Pintado Chapter has no housing. Again, they have been denied. Many communities in these areas have been denied because there's no water. And so a denial of this project would only cause more hardships.

The other thing that this does too is this benefits First Americans directly, and that's the Native Americans living in this area. The U.S. Government through a treaty made itself the trustee for these citizens. And so it would be a dishonorable thing now for the U.S. to deny this project if in any way, you know, denies it.

The other thing too is the cost is too much for the residence to haul water for their families and livestock because this is an agrarian type of community. People raise livestock and participate in agricultural practices.

I thank Judge Becenti and his wife for testifying. They give us the facts that they've hauled water for 30 years. People who haul water at least 2
times a week, and you multiply that by 30 years, they have hauled water to my calculation 57,600 times. So all of those that are here and the Hearing Officer, imagine that yourself. And then you multiply it by the more than 9,000 people that this project will benefit, 9,000 families, for that same number of years, I count that they have hauled water more than 500 million times, you know, during that 30 years. And so a denial of this project will only continue that hardship.

The other thing too is that the cost is now more than $120 per 110 gallons. There are 55 gallons that people use, barrels to haul water. At the average it's two gallons -- or two barrels, 110 gallons. And so -- and then it costs about $120 in gas to go one way and back. So you compare that to $3.30 per thousand gallons in Albuquerque. And I don't know how much you pay, Madame Hearing Officer, but you can calculate that yourself too. And so the people that -- the Navajo people that you see in the audience tonight pays the highest in the United States for hauling water in this area.

This project promotes intercommunity and interethnic cooperation. Thanks to Governor Richardson, this project became a priority in this past legislative session. And it passed on to the state legislature, which funded it. If this project is denied, it will turn back
this cooperation.

So this project not only will deny the physical part of it, but it will also cause lack of cooperation again. People are finally coming together to cooperate not only for this project, but also for the settlement and would represent a travesty if this project is denied.

And then the other is that the intercooperation on this is now moving the water rights settlement forward, and this helps in resolving Navajo and other tribal water rights issues. Again, denial of this project will only encourage litigation and bitter feelings again. And this is what it will cause if this project is denied.

The other interesting thing too is that Albuquerque is already receiving San Juan water through the San Juan Diversion Project. This somewhat I think is unjust because the Navajo people and the native people living in this area have prior rights to this water, but Albuquerque got it first.

And you see the economic -- socioeconomic development in the Rio Grande Valley now in the Albuquerque area because of this water going over there. And we don't see it in the Chaco Basin area because the water is not there.

The water is of poor quality as you get further away from the San Juan River. And so when you have water
coming from the San Juan River, it leads to increase in
water quality.

Navajo Nation Council has approved the settlement
and also this project. And so New Mexico has also done
so. And it's been moved on to Washington. Much cost and
energy has already been invested and expended. And,
again, the denial of this project will dishonor these
approvals and the people's efforts.

With this project, we cannot go elsewhere. This
interconnection is the best alternative. Some of these
interconnections have already been built, and it
represents a less disturbance to the people living in the
area and also the environment.

I would encourage that the Congress and also the
environmental and whatever U.S. departments prioritize the
building of this project. And I would encourage Congress
to fund this project in the same amount that it is sending
to Iraq. There's a little travesty there when we see how
much money we're sending over, and we see people still
asking for these moneys.

Finally, I would ask that these presentations,
the video presentations of the EIS, needs to also be done
in Navajo. And so I would encourage because I think it's
a denial of the rights of the elders here that, you know,
if you don't do a video presentation in it.
Also, because of the less time that Judge Becenti talked about, we have very little time to try to express this. So thank you very much. And I would encourage that you also honor these procedural rights of the Navajo people. Thank you again.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Tsosie.

Next we'd like to hear from Mr. Frank Willetto.

STATEMENT BY FRANK WILLETTO

MR. WILLETTO: I would like to stand and talk.

(At this time, Mr. Willetto spoke briefly in Navajo.)

MR. WILLETTO: I'd like to use a language which I've learned. I understand it's a foreign language, which is English. This evening, we're talking, saying, "public hearing, see what the public." And I understand these folks here supposed to just listen to the public. And right now all I know is the Navajos were here before Farmington ever start to grow. The water, it was all there. But the Navajos were there. Dinétah, that's where the Navajos were.

I'd like to speak a little about Gallup and Navajo water line. We have some people here that we were talking about Gallup and Navajo water line some, some years ago. It was a different route at that time.

I just so happen to have been in the council at
that time, Navajo Tribal Council. It was supposed to come
on 371 and catch in most of the chapters. And then it was
supposed to fork off back that way and run back that way
(indicating).

I was very happy at that time because Crownpoint
was going to get their water. And then from Crownpoint,
Whitehorse Lake, Pintado, Ojo, Torreon, Rincon Marquez,
all were supposed to get their water. But, you know, when
you get people elected every four years, things change.

So today the water line that was proposed many
years ago went west along 491 Highway. And that left the
eastern part dry. And I was so happy to hear about the
Cutter Lateral. I completely 110 percent support that.

And my chapter, some people wanted to come. They
thought the hearing was going to be during the day. But
it's going to be at night from 6:00 to 9:00. That's what
I was told. And they kind of back off. And they say,
"You go and say what you can say."

For Cutter Lateral, we have seven chapter at this
point. And each chapter has over a thousand-plus members
at their chapter. Pueblo Pintado, I want to speak on that
because I'm the Chapter President at this time there.

Pueblo Pintado is 70 miles from Farmington.
Pueblo Pintado is 48 miles from Crownpoint. Pueblo
Pintado is a hundred miles from Gallup. So we're out
there. A lot of people say "nowhere," but we know where we are.

Pueblo Pintado has a public high school, grade from 9 to the 12th. Pueblo Pintado has a BIA boarding school, K through the 8th grade. Pueblo Pintado has an IHS clinic that serves practically the five chapters in that area.

Pueblo Pintado has a senior center, which operates five days a week. Pueblo Pintado is getting a new replacement BIA school. Pueblo Pintado is getting a bigger IHS clinic. And Pueblo Pintado has a store for its community.

And Pueblo Pintado sometime soon, the chapter will hopefully build offices for people that run from Window Rock to spend two hours out there, most of their time is going back there. We want to leave -- or get them to stay at Pintado, which means a building for an office space.

And above all, we are trying -- the chapter is trying to get water to each hogan or house or trailer house in that area. I'm talking about only one chapter. And not even half of the community have water now.

We just barely got the high school going because they said, "We don't have water for the high school." And when you don't do things for your community, that means
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1 you are doing bad things for that community. And water is
2 No. 1 that we need.
3
4 Just for an example -- yes, I've been over in
5 Pueblo Pintado 50 years now. But I have a family that
6 lives two miles from here, right next to the Becentis. We
7 also hauled water. Two miles from Crownpoint, where you
8 would think everything is there. And we don't even have
9 running water.
10
11 I, myself, have to haul water by a trailer, a
12 water truck, just to try to keep up with the rest of the
13 Smiths and Johns of the other places.
14
15 And I just want to say one less, is that we --
16 the people out here, we want a swimming pool like all the
17 cities. We want car washes for our cars. We want to be
18 up-to-date with everybody else. And we want green lawn
19 around our hogans.
20
21 So I want to thank you for listening to me. Of
22 course, I'm speaking a foreign language. I do better in
23 Navajo. And that's why they happen to -- got me to serve
24 three years in the Marine Corps as a Navajo Code Talker.
25
26 Thank you.
27
28 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you,
29 Mr. Willetto. We'd next like to hear from Mr. Roger
30 Toledo. Did I say that right?
31
32 MR. TOLEDO: Yes.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

STATEMENT BY ROGER TOLEDO

MR. TOLEDO: Thank you. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. At this point I guess it's a little hard to bring something new to the table. What needs to be said has already been said. You just say what they said.

I'm supporting this project as the public official from the Ojo Encino Chapter. My name is Roger Toledo. I'm the Chapter Vice President. I'm on the school board of a BIA school also. And I'm also a Community Land Use Planner for the Ojo Encino community.

Ojo Encino is one of the first communities to get water hooked up to individual homes because of the availability of water in the area at the time. We have three wells that are -- that support several water lines in the area, Torreon, Rincon Marquez.

They were the first -- one of the first ones -- we were the first communities to get water. And with that being, the water table is -- I'm one of the -- I'm well aware of the water depletion in the area. I used to drill water wells years ago, and so I replace some of the individual pumps for ranchers and churches in the area.

And as such, I'm aware of some of the pumps that have burned up because of the depleting water table of the...
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1 NTUA water system. It has an impact on ranchers,
2 individual private wells, as well as churches in the
3 area.
4 And as a school board member, I'm aware of some
5 of the things that we can't have in our schools because of
6 the lack of water or what little there is of the water.
7 Fire hydrants, we've had to -- quite a few
8 households have burnt down because of low water pressure.
9 And I don't think we have water -- fire hydrants at our
10 school, but it doesn't have enough water pressure behind
11 it to really do much good.
12 And as a Community Land Use Planner, it's a
13 little hard to plan for the future, you know, 40 years
14 down the road when you're not -- when the water
15 availability is uncertain. And we are bringing new
16 developments in the area.
17 And it's a little hard to plan 40 years down the
18 road when you're not sure you're going to have the water
19 that's -- you know, that's going to be available then 40
20 years down the road.
21 And I think the longer we wait, the more
22 expensive it's going to be. If we had done this project,
23 say, 20 years ago, it wouldn't have cost the government
24 this much. The longer we wait, the more expensive it's
25 going to be.
And I, myself, used to draw water from a water well and haul water in buckets as a child. I remember that, when we didn't have water. But it's -- I get emotional when I talk about things like this, but it's very -- it's hard to fathom this when you have elders, you know, that have to haul water in their pickup trucks. Some can't even drive anymore, so they depend on the younger generation to do that. And that's even tougher when the kids are leaving the Reservation because you don't have jobs or, you know, things that you have in the city.

I think this project will probably bring dollar to the Reservation also, which means jobs and bringing people -- some of the kids that are -- that have to work in the city home, hopefully. I know I spent the majority of my lifetime living in the city and finally came home a few years back.

But I had to wait four years to get water to my -- into my house. That's still something that we're still working on. It takes -- takes that long to get water to an individual home from the date of application. And that's still going on. And it will -- hopefully we can cut some of that time down.

I know my mom just had a house built last month. And she's living in a house that's -- that's kind of run
down, and she can't negotiate the steps like she used to.

But we can't even move into the new house because
the water isn't hooked up yet, and it's going to be
another three years before that will get done if we go
through the IHS or -- you know. If we do it ourselves, it
would be less time.

But these are some of the things that -- some of
the hardships that we encounter out here. And I just
wanted to bring that to your attention.

Again, thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Toledo.

We'd next like to hear from Mr. Jerry Silago.

STATEMENT BY JERRY SILAGO

(At this time, Mr. Silago spoke briefly in
Navajo.)

MR. SILAGO: Good evening. My name is Jerry
Silago. And I presently work for Navajo Tribal Utility
Authority. And I've been with the water utility for
20-plus years. And through that experience and operating
and maintaining a system, I'd like to bring my concerns
and issues to this hearing.

We have existing water systems located in Ojo
Encino. And we have an existing water system located in
Torreon. And we have an existing water system tied into
Pueblo Pintado. And we also have a small system in the
Comment PH-02 – continued

1 Whitehorse Chapter area.
2 And as you all know, water is life. And without
3 water, you can't survive. She is sitting for only a
4 couple hours and already drinking water. Same here. Two
5 hours. So water is needed by anybody, especially the
6 Navajo people that we serve, that we try to serve.
7 I have three issues. A lot of them are already
8 covered, but it won't hurt to cover it again from my
9 point. The three items that I wanted to stress is water
10 quality, the water quantity, and the demand. Okay.
11 We have -- like Mr. Toledo said, we have a couple
12 wells in Ojo Encino. And combining those two wells, it
13 produces approximately 150 gallons a minute. And that
14 source serves over 500 to 600 water connection. And it
15 serves commercial building that Mr. Willetto mentioned in
16 Pueblo Pintado.
17 And these pumps and wells, some of them average
18 about 14 hours per day pumping time just to keep up with
19 the demand. And it also affect development, like
20 Mr. Willetto mentioned. The new high school that was
21 built was barely built. It was borderline to being
22 rejected because there was no -- not enough water.
23 One thing that helped them was to refurbish, redo
24 the well where it can produce up to that maximum 150
25 gallons.
And the water quality in Whitehorse Lake is kind of bad, and it has high doses of sodium chloride. And as you all know, that's a health effect on newborns and also health effect on elderlies.

And we do have a well in Whitehorse Lake, but the maximum output is 15 gallons a minute. And we have about almost 150 connection in that area. And pumping at 15 gallons a minute, sometimes we have to pump the pump.

About 24 hours a day, that's maximum, 24 hours in one whole day, to try to keep the water level within the capacity of our tank. And like I said, the demand raise it down and the pump huffs and puffs for another 24 hours.

There's another source that was developed so I suggested to drill another well. Then again the water quality is another issue. So in order to use that water that was drilled, they would have to blend that existing, run an extra line to the tank and mix the existing well with the new well to blend it so the water quality will be a lot better from the second well.

And Torreon is also another issue. There's four wells up there. And, again, they huff and puff about 14 hours a day.

And I'm 100 percent for this project. It will help all the connection that's proposed from Cutter
Lateral to Counselor to Ojo Encino to Torreon, and it's also proposed to go from Pintado to Whitehorse Lake. And if that goes through, I'm sure it's going to go through with the support of you four or five that's sitting right here.

It will benefit all the people that's in there. It will benefit a new development. Pintado will get the hospital. Pintado will get their new BIA school. Pintado will get a commercial building.

And in one sec we'll have the water. That's a big issue. And no water issue is usually geared to NTUA. You guys should be the provider, make sure you have enough water to accommodate our request, a proposal to upgrade economic development. But there's no way it can be done unless we have another source, a backup source.

And that backup source I see as Cutter Lateral, which will benefit every new development, every new connection to customers and limit all the water hauling that's going to be ended -- like Mr. Becenti and other elderlies -- all they just go in there and turn the water on right there instead of hauling water and all the wear and tear on their vehicles.

And I appreciate you taking all this back with you and approve what's still holding up the project and make it easy on the part right away. And I'd like to
thank Mr. Robertson, Andrew Robertson, who was kind of

spearheading this whole project.

I'm surprised. I heard of this a couple years
ago versus that route, Gallup-Navajo Project that still
did not work. It's all political stuff, but with the help
of Mr. Anderson (sic), that thing is going -- it's going
pretty good.

And I'd like to see this get up, get going before
I retire from the company, and it's pretty near. And I
was just teasing Andrew. Once you get that thing built,
I'll be retired, but you can hire me over there. Anyway,
okay. Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Silago.

We'd next like to hear from Mr. Mitchell Capitan.

STATEMENT BY MITCHELL CAPITAN

MR. CAPITAN: Good evening.

(At this time, Mr. Capitan spoke briefly in
Navajo.)

MR. CAPITAN: Is it kind of cold in here? I was
looking at that heater. Hopefully it will come on. But I
guess it's summer, so this is probably the last moment we
can be cool.

My name is Mitchell Capitan. I've lived here in
Crownpoint for the past 35 years. I've been a past
Chapter President here in Crownpoint. I remember in 19 --
or 2001 we supported this project when it was being
planned first, so most of the people here at my chapter
support the plan at the time it was brought to us.

And also I work with Mr. Jerry Silago that spoke
here just recently. It's well said, Jerry, of what you
have brought up here about the water supply that we see in
Torreon, Pueblo Pintado, and Whitehorse Lake area.

It's very true that demand is very little. And I
think what this Cutter Lateral water supply will really
help the community of the area because I know they need
growth, they need economic development.

And also I am an outspoken individual. I'm not
an activist. I'm not a tree hugger. I'm just trying to
protect my community here in Crownpoint. I'm a founder of
an organization called ENDAUM, Eastern Navajo Diné Against
Uranium Mining, which I'm sure you have heard.

I have spoken at the United Nations before and
it's been all over. So we've been fighting a mining
company for the past 12 years, and I will also bring
something up to that effect.

First of all, as you know, Crownpoint, we really
are about to outgrow our water supplies. You know, we
share water with other chapters here in Crownpoint.
Becenti Chapter, Nahodishgish Chapter, Littlewater
Chapter. We have a total amount of people at least about
15,000 people in this area that use this water supply here in Crownpoint. And we get our water at least about 2,000 feet deep. There's two wells that we feed off here with NTUA. And for the past 10 years, you know, we had a water restriction because of the drought. And we were very much concerned, you know, how this water supply will really go down as the communities start to grow more and more and people will start to move back here in our communities. And we have to serve other chapters in our surrounding areas. So that was a concern for us.

Another concern was there's a proposed mining that's coming to our community. And they call this new technology, the new mining technique called in-situ leach mining, which they will use our aquifer to mine uranium. And this was a very grave concern for us that this mining company will contaminate our water. So these are the concerns that we have.

And now we hear of this alternative water supply that will be coming into our community from the west, from Coyote Canyon on to Dalton Pass and down to here to Crownpoint. I think this is very good. I support it myself.

But there's a concern about this, that I feel that this mining company will -- hopefully will not take
advantage, thinking that "Crownpoint is going to get
another alternative water supply, so we can go ahead and
contaminate their water. They've got their water now. We
can play with their water that they've been using."

Hopefully that doesn't happen. I have talked
with Mr. Robertson about this issue before and some other
individual about this issue. And what I was told was
that, "The water supply that we have, you guys will still
have. With this other alternative water, it will help you
more. It will develop -- it will create and help your
economic growth," because our community is growing.

So it kind of eased me up on that. And
hopefully, you know, in the text of this water supply
that's going to be fed to us, there should be a
restriction on the mining companies.

And another grave concern that I have on this is
the right-of-way. The agreement that they could have, you
know, when they go run this water line through the areas,
I know there's a lot of different land issue in this
area. And I myself worked for NTUA as a customer service
supervisor. I run into right-of-way problems, especially
when we run the electric power lines.

And I hope all the right-of-way issue will be
taken care of because once NTUA goes to oversee the
system, hopefully we don't run into right-of-way
problems. And I know right-of-way issue is going to take
a long, quite some time to resolve. And I hope this will
not delay the project.
So I have the support for this project,
especially with the community of Whitehorse Lake. I know
their water supply is real bad. And they are in dire need
of that.
And another community that I'd like to mention,
which is not really on the project, is the Casamera Lake
community and Smith Lake community. This two community,
they need good adequate water. Their water supply,
especially through Casamera Lake community, they have some
trace of uranium in there. So they have to shut down
their water supplies, their well supply.
Now they are feeding off Smith Lake. Smith Lake
doesn't have a good water. So hopefully somehow with this
planning those two community will get involved to receive
these waters. That way I'm sure that they will be much --
much safer, you know; that the community will be healthier
than what it is now. So with this, thank you very much.
THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Capitan.
We'd next like to hear from Mr. Leo Martin.
STATEMENT FROM LEO MARTIN
MR. MARTIN: It's against my religion to turn my
back on the people, but they already made their statement
and I'm talking to you, so.

My name is Leo Martin. I'm from Becenti Chapter. I was a member of this chapter here. When they start selling the water, I left.

I believe the reason why you're here is you wanted to get the facts from the rural area people to compare with the facts that you've been getting from the city slickers, Gallup and other area, where the people are not really as hard up for water as we are.

And also why the two public hearing that we have here, I think this is the only town we have more. We had some public hearing here. And the people wasn't interested in because they were misled.

At the first they were told they can use the water, one is coming in to feed their livestock, also used as an irrigation system, used on the lawns and stuff like that, but later on they were told, "No, it's just for human consumption only, just for drinking."

So a lot of them start -- don't want to come in here. So that's why you don't have a full house here. There's more people out there that's really concerned about it if they are actually told the truth about what's going on and what the project is all about.

And also right now at that first hearing that we had was a little bit over $500 million was the cost of
it. Now as I see it, it's over $700 million. By the time you get this project implemented, it will be over 200 -- I mean, probably 900 million or so.

So I think it's best thing to do is try to get it going instead of just kicking it around, taking it here and there to try to prove if it's needed. And as far as I know, this -- the two route that you already implemented here around 491 and also on Highway 44 and that northern area, that should be good enough.

And let's face it, the people is not -- is not going to stop hauling the water. They are still going to haul the water because the water pool will be either here at the chapter house. They are not going to run to the hogans.

It's going to be next 28 years before NTUA or another project comes through here to provide us to a water line to the hogans. So that's one of the things they need to remember. They think they are going to stop hauling the water tomorrow or next year. We're talking about around 10 years from now.

So I don't believe it should be this kick around for that long. And I hope you all take really serious action on this one, what we're trying to ask for, what you want from us to verify the need.

Now, somehow I've been thinking what we've been
trying to prove, what we're saying is the people that's
nonwater user, otherwise it's such a common sense why the
water is important. Why do you have to ask people, "Why
do you need water?" You know why you need water.
The people up in the leadership position should
know. I don't believe none of them is not a water user.
So they should just come out of here and face the facts
and get a right-of-way approval and start working on it.
So that's what I think.

And another thing is this water is not going to
change much of our environmental impact. It's not going
to change that much. But it's going to be really helpful.
It's one of the most helpful thing that everybody ever
thought of for us to be part of our survival, especially
for the Navajo people out here.

And I think what you here for this evening, you
heard what these people make a comment on before. I think
the gentleman here on his record everything that was said,
to me they are just repeating what was said before in two
public hearings.

I thought I was going to hear something
different, but I haven't. Because I attend all the public
meetings that they have here. And that I was saying that
one of the suggestions that was made, if it's going to
cost that much to run two lines, why can't they develop a
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1 deep water system in the -- around the chapter close by or
2 in the area more where you can't reach between the 491 and
3 also Highway 44, around 371.
4 That might be cheaper by doing that than trying
5 to get that water going from different area, from Becenti
6 Chapter we're only going to get water depending on how
7 much action, how fast the NTUA can work to include the
8 line through Becenti Chapter.
9 And most of the people are in this town now, not
10 because there's no water, because the lifestyles have had
11 changed or what they have been depending on, livestock, is
12 all gone because of the rules and regulations that is
13 coming out from all directions to attack us. So you don't
14 need it. That's why we are in this position. Now we only
15 ask for survival for our human consumption of good water.
16 And like my son, Mr. Capitan, said, somebody will
17 try to help me good and somebody else will come around and
18 work under the table and take what you've been working
19 against.
20 And if somebody -- we don't want nobody to be
21 messing around with the basin water level down underneath
22 basin water pool trying to get -- make some money for
23 themselves. We want that water to go back up so we can go
24 back to it instead of depending on the San Juan River.
25 What guarantee do we have 40 years from now that
river will still be running. We don't have no guarantee. So we have to have some sort of an ultimate -- something alternate, something that we can fall back on, which will be the basin. And that's the way I see it and that's the only statement I would like to make.

And I'm supporting 100 percent in trying to get the people to vote in for the two systems, that the drawing that we have on the board, instead of just kicking it around and going into more time trying to come up with something. Pretty soon you won't be able to pay for it.

And that's the only thing I've got to say. And I want to thank each and every one of you who come out here to listen to us, from the rural people. And thank you again.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Martin.

We'd next like to hear from Mr. Bobby Willie.

STATEMENT BY BOBBY WILLIE

MR. WILLIE: Good evening, everyone and those that made a statement here. My name is Bobby Willie. I'm from the Smith Lake, Chapter President. I'm at the bottom of the list on these two water line projects, but we have hope; that we need the water because our population is growing and they have to have water somewhere.

Currently Smith Lake has a bad water, which was ruined by the mining. There was about four or five mines
that was done. Uranium mining. There was a good water
source right in the chapter compound, but right now it's
capped off because it's highly contaminated with uranium.

So we have another well that was dug, but right
now it's very corrosive. And the people, they don't use
it for human consumption. They can wash or just
 cleaning. Because every year they buy a water heater or a
new appliance to replace them because that water is very
corro.

And recently we got some allocation -- and thank
you, Mr. Benson, for helping us with that allocation to
ty to get that two new wells. And then the Souder,
Miller & Associates, they come up with some ideas. And we
really appreciate those two wells. That's going to be
sometime this summer. And thank you, Mr. Robertson, for
helping us out. We really appreciate it.

So we should get some new wells. But to me this
is like a Band-Aid job because in the long runs, one of
these days because of the drought we're going to run out
of water.

And right now there's a lot of litigation going
on to do some leach mining for uranium. We're not too
sure what's going to happen, but I'm sure it's going to
contaminate the water somewhere because it's going to seep
into the water system. And we're going to need this water
for our future generations because they are going to need
it.

Currently, a lot of the young people are going to
the border town. They live out there because they need
running water. And then our elderlies too, they are being
placed in elderly care off the Reservation in border town
because they don't have the running water that is needed
because they have to have inside bathroom to try to keep
them going.

But we don't -- since we don't have that within
the communities, a lot of them, they just end up in the
elderly care. And that's where they passed on and very
heart broken because they leave their land and their
birthrights, their birthplace.

And right now I'm sure, because I was reading
this, that the Bureau of Reclamations have no indications
that they don't have the authorization to do this thing.
I believe if our nation can put a man on the moon and make
a sample up there and our nation can foot out about over a
$100 billion to run a war in Iraq, I'm sure we can come up
with some fundings here to get our water to our
communities.

And we really appreciate it for letting us
expressing our concerns here because to develop --
economic develop, we need water. And then we need other
things to do, but we need water. And then the -- around the states like Albuquerque, as former Senator Tsosie stated -- that Albuquerque is already getting the water. And our name is up there, Navajo Reservoir. If we can't get the water, they should change it to some other name. And the water is running through the Reservation around Shiprock. We should just take the whole thing right there.

Anyway, I'd just like to express this concern for our Smith Lake Community. I know we're at the bottom of the list, but we're looking to the future for about 15 to 20 years so our future generation can benefit from it. We might not see it right now, but we would like to see something happen for them. Thank you very much.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Willie.

Next, we'd like to hear from Mr. Jackson Gibson.

STATEMENT BY JACKSON GIBSON

MR. GIBSON: Good evening. My name is Jackson Gibson. I live in Thoreau, New Mexico, about a mile and a half north of Thoreau Chapter House against the red mesas there. Like Mr. Martin said, it's against my religion, but I'm going to turn my back on my relatives just for a little while.

(At this time, Mr. Gibson spoke briefly in Navajo.)
MR. GIBSON: I agree and I support all the comments that I heard this evening. This past January, on January 11, I turned 60. I was born and raised right where I live. And at a very young age, I herd sheep right there in my community.

North of my house, it was all open space. Very, very few houses in that area. I came -- I joined the military. I came back. When I went riding a horse north of where I lived where I used to herd sheep, I saw a lot of mobile homes. There's another housing development in that area that has increased since I was a young boy.

Now, in front of my house, there's a county road. It's almost like Highway 371. There are a lot of people that live up north. So it's just to let you know that growth is there. A lot of people have moved into the area.

I used to walk a mile to unimproved 371 -- at that time it was a gravel road -- to catch the bus to go to school. But now McKinley County bus goes up that county road. The BIA bus goes up that road. A whole bunch of buses go up there to pick up kids.

So, again, this is just to show you the growth. What does that mean? That means that people are going to use water. So I need you to understand it; that a lot of our folks are still hauling water from Transwestern
Pipeline Company. They haul water from Crownpoint, as Mr. Leo Martin objected to. But people are still hauling the water.

I worked at Smith Lake Chapter for 10 years. I left there this past December. I appreciate what Mr. Mitchell has said about the community of Smith Lake. The water quality is very, very poor. You could smell -- I sat in my office about 40 yards from the bathroom. You could smell the water. It smells bad. It's very corrosive, like Mr. Willie mentioned. So those people are in dire need of good water.

And this is all because of the past mining activities. If you go into Smith Lake, you go into the remote area at Smith Lake, the mine shafts that they had underground, some of the places are caving in right now. And, you know, it's just a situation that -- that where the water is desperately needed in that community.

I'm a Vietnam veteran. You know, the U.S. Government, as Senator Tsosie said -- we've been denied. The government denies the VA benefits to us. In education, they deny us. To say, for example, Impact Aid Program, McKinley County Schools, there's about 11,000 kids that are going to the school district. 85 percent of them are natives.

They generate impact aid money, but it's not kept
in the district. It's spread out to across the state. So they are denying us that too. Don't let the government deny us water, like what former Senator Tsosie said.

I want to mention here that we would have had a packed house. But we don't have a packed house because some of those people cannot afford the price of gas to get here. They've probably been out there hauling water and saving whatever gas they have for tomorrow. That's why they are not here.

You guys are going to be holding another hearing in Farmington on June 6th. You're going to have a lot of people there that are opposing what we support out here. That's the last hearing you're going to have. Those are the last people you're going to hear from, and that's going to be fresh in your own mind. But don't forget what was said here this evening. Don't forget what these people here said.

I want to thank you for coming out here. And I'm requesting that you go back to your superiors and tell them, "Let's give water to Eastern Navajos." Thank you.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Gibson. And that's our last speaker tonight. We want to thank all of you for being here tonight. We really appreciate your comments and the time you took to come here.

We do have a sign-up sheet for attendance in the
back. If you did not sign that, we would appreciate it if you would so that you can get information by mail.

And thanks again for coming, and we wish you all a safe journey home.

(The hearing adjourned at 9:04 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE

I, Tanya M. Nims, a Certified Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the Proceedings of the above-entitled project were reported by me stenographically on May 23, 2007, and that the within transcript is a true and accurate transcription of my shorthand notes.

I further certify that I am neither an attorney nor counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the project, and that I am not a relative or employee or any attorney or counsel employed by the project hereto, or financially interested in the project.

TANYA M. NIMS, RPR
Certified Court Reporter #168
License Expires: December 31, 2007