Navajo–Gallup Water Supply Project Newsletter

Who’s the Water Going To?

By Pat Page - Bureau of Reclamation

The NGWSP will provide a clean, reliable water supply for residents and communities in the eastern portion of the Navajo Reservation (primarily in New Mexico but also the communities of Window Rock, St. Michaels, and Fort Defiance in Arizona), the southwestern portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, and the city of Gallup, New Mexico.

The treated drinking water will be available for municipal, industrial, and domestic uses in homes, schools, community buildings, and businesses. The project is being designed to meet current and future demands.

The illustration shows how the water is allocated among the three project participants. Most of the water provided by the project (over ¾ of the total) goes to the Navajo Nation. The remaining amount is allocated to the City of Gallup and the Jicarilla Apache Nation.

The source of the water is from the San Juan River Basin and comes directly from the San Juan River including from water stored in Navajo Reservoir. The Navajo Nation’s water is from its 2010 water rights settlement on the San Juan River in New Mexico. The water for the Jicarilla Apache Nation, as well as the City of Gallup (via a water supply contract with the Jicarilla Apache Nation) comes from water allocated to the Jicarilla Apache Nation in their 1992 water rights settlement.

Faces of NGWSP

Hello, my name is Jackie McKinney. Gallup has been my home since 1963, and since March 2011, I have had the privilege to serve as the city’s Mayor. I was formally introduced to the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project when I was elected as mayor. In the last eight years I have seen the project move from ideas on paper to pipe in ground.

The Project’s ability to supply a clean and renewable source of drinking water will be a huge asset for the entire region. The Project’s potential to drive economic development and improve the quality of life for residents has spurred partnerships between City, County, State, Federal, and Navajo Nation legislators and agencies.

Those partnerships are potentially the biggest asset provided by the project. The challenge remaining for City, County, and Navajo Nation leadership is to continue to build on the existing relationships outside of NGWSP to realize full economic potential across the region.

If you would like to learn more about the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, you can visit our website at https://www.usbr.gov/uc/rm/navajo/ nav-gallup/.
Reach 14.1 and 14.2 – Church Rock and Iyanbito Water Line Extension

The Bureau of Reclamation and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction, have collaborated to construct Reaches 14.1 and 14.2 of the NGWSP. The project will provide additional water supply to the Navajo communities of Church Rock and Iyanbito northeast of Gallup, New Mexico. The Church Rock and Iyanbito waterline extension begins at the newly constructed metering station (Gallup Regional System Reach 27.7), across the road from the new Church Rock Elementary School. The design includes a pump house which will house two large pumping systems designed to meet the current and future demand of the communities. The Church Rock pumps are being designed to deliver water, through 5,500 feet of 10-inch water pipe, to a new 660,000-gallon water storage tank and the existing 372,000-gallon tank. The Iyanbito pumps are being designed to deliver water, through 42,000 feet of 8-inch water pipe, to a new 547,000-gallon and the existing 160,000-gallon water storage tank. The proposed waterline alignment extends over the hill northeast of the Church Rock community parallel to the existing gas line. Reach 14.1 and 14.2 are currently at 90% design phase and construction is anticipated to begin in 2020.

Reach 14.1 Church Rock WST perimeter staking – Bobby James, Civil Engineer

Spotlight – The Gallup Regional System

By DePauli Engineering & Surveying

To say the service area of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP) is large is an understatement. This $1.16 billion project will provide a clean and renewable water source to residents of two states, four counties, and 43 Navajo Chapters. To serve a project area that big, the project is using regional approaches to deliver water. The Gallup Regional System, located on the southern end of San Juan Lateral, is one of the larger and more complex regional delivery systems.

The GRS consists of water transmission and storage infrastructure including approximately 40 miles of waterline, three pump stations, 14 million gallons of storage, and various other control features.

The GRS will receive and store water from the San Juan Lateral and deliver it to City, County, and Navajo Nation residents within and surrounding the City of Gallup. The planned improvements form a water transmission ring around the City of Gallup that will act as a “bypass highway” connecting the City of Gallup water system to the four NTUA water systems surrounding Gallup.

Roughly 3.8 million gallons of storage is allocated for growth within and immediately adjacent to the City of Gallup. The remaining 10.2 million gallons of storage is allocated for growth in the surrounding Navajo Chapters. The result is a large regional system that will allow the delivery of water as far as Iyanbito to the east, Chichiltah to the south and Maneulito to the west.

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