



Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Newsletter

1st Quarter, October 2018

Bureau of Reclamation launches Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Newsletter

By Pat Page, P.E.

Welcome to the Bureau of Reclamation's first edition of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Quarterly Newsletter. The newsletter will provide information on current and future construction activities, as well as present background information, answer frequently asked questions, and detail important facts pertaining to the project.

The Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, or NGWSP, is the cornerstone of the Navajo Nation's 2010 Water Rights Settlement agreement on the San Juan River Basin in New Mexico. When completed, the project will include over 300 miles of pipeline, two water treatment plants, 19 pumping plants, several million gallons of storage and will provide a reliable and clean drinking water supply for 43 chapters within the Navajo Nation, the southwestern portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, and the City of Gallup. Reclamation has the overall responsibility for the project, but the Navajo Nation, the City of Gallup, and the Indian Health Service are also completing portions of the project under financial assistance agreements with Reclamation. The current cost estimate for the project is \$1.16 billion (at the October 2018 price level). The Federal Government is providing the majority of the funding, but the State of New Mexico is also providing \$50 million in cost-share, and the City of Gallup and Jicarilla Apache Nation are required to repay a portion of their allocated construction costs (the construction costs allocated to the Navajo Nation are forgiven as part of the water rights settlement agreement).



A 42" pipe installation and replacement of bedding and embedment on Reach 11-Twin Lakes, New Mexico.

– photo by Rick Gillespie

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and find the information presented here to be interesting and useful. Should you have any questions regarding the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, or have input on the newsletter, please contact Pat Page at (505) 324-5027, or ppage@usbr.gov. You can also check out our website at <https://www.usbr.gov/uc/rm/navajo/nav-gallup/>.



Faces of NGWSP

My name is Jason John and I am the Water Management Branch Manager, Department of Water Resources for the Navajo Nation. I am from Twin Lakes, New Mexico.

I am born to the Tábaqhá, I am born for the Tł'ááshchí'i, my maternal grandfathers are the 'Áshjìhi, my paternal grandfathers are the Kiyaa'áanii.

I've worked for the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources since 2001; initially as a Principal Hydrologist, and now as Water Management Branch Chief. I oversee the daily operations for various water projects across the Navajo Nation, focusing on regional domestic water projects for current and future uses. NGWSP is important because it will provide water for future uses on the Navajo Nation to assist in sustaining the homeland for the Navajo Nation communities. This includes water for domestic, municipal, commercial and light industrial uses. It will provide many benefits including a clean water supply, opportunities for economic growth, and jobs.

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/>.

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Upcoming Construction

By Bart Deming, P.E.

Construction on the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project is well underway and will continue on both the Cutter Lateral and San Juan Lateral during the current fall 2018 season. The project is being constructed in segments or “reaches”.

On the Cutter Lateral, Moltz Construction is installing the final few miles of 24-inch pipe along Reach 22b. The contract also includes construction of two pumping plants. When completed in the spring of 2019, the pipeline and pumping plant project will connect Cutter Dam to the Cutter Lateral Water Treatment Plant, near the community of Dzilh-Na-O-Dith-Hle. CH2M Hill Constructors are scheduled to break ground on the treatment plant in early November.

Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority is completing the stub pipeline off Reach 24.1 that will deliver water to the southwest portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation with construction anticipated to be completed this upcoming winter. NECA will also start construction in late October on Reaches 26.1 and 26.2, which will deliver water to Counselor, Pueblo Pintado and Whitehorse Lake Chapters.

The San Juan Lateral will divert water from the San Juan River at the Hogback Diversion Dam and convey it to Navajo communities along Highways 491, 264, and Navajo Route 9, along with the city of Gallup, and Navajo communities west, south, and east of Gallup. Construction is underway on Reaches 9, 10, and 11 between Naschitti and Twin Lakes. Oscar Renda Contracting, Inc., is installing 42-inch and 48-inch diameter pipe on these reaches. The City of Gallup’s contractor, Smithco Construction, is scheduled to complete Reaches 27.7a and Reach 27.13, part of the Gallup Regional System, at the end of November.



Construction work on Tohlakai Pumping Plant, Navajo-Gallup is not only bring water to the Navajo Nation; it’s also bringing jobs. – photo by Dave Gates

Highlight - Cutter Water Treatment Plant

By David Stoliker P.E. and Hubert “Chico” Quintana

The design of the Cutter Water Treatment Plant and Reach 21 pipeline is complete and construction is set to start in early November. This final piece will complete the Cutter Lateral Water Transmission System and is the culmination of years of planning and hard work going back to even before the project was authorized by Congress when local chapters got together to start work on the Cutter Lateral.

The Cutter Lateral waterline starts at Cutter Reservoir, a feature of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project and receives its water from Navajo Reservoir. The connection to the Cutter Lateral waterline at Cutter Dam was completed in 2017. A large, underground waterline was completed this year to within 4 miles of the Cutter Lateral Water Treatment Plant site. The Reach 21 waterline will complete the waterline connection all the way to the Water Treatment Plant site. The Cutter Lateral waterline will provide the communities from Dzilh-Na-O-Dith-Hle to Pueblo Pintado, as well as the southwestern portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, with clean drinking water, that will also be available for commercial and industrial uses.



An artist’s rendering of the Water Treatment Plant has been prepared by the designer, Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., and is shown here.

A blessing ceremony was held on October 22, at the location of the water treatment plant. The Cutter Water Treatment Plant is scheduled to be completed and delivering clean, reliable water to its customers in 2020.

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