



# Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Newsletter

1st Quarter, October 2020

## Cutter Lateral Being Prepared for Water Delivery

By David Stoliker, P.E., Design Group Chief, Bureau of Reclamation

Construction of the Cutter Lateral Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is nearing completion and testing of the plant and entire Cutter Lateral system has begun. A team of professionals from the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources, New Mexico Environment Department, Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency, Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority, private consultants (Jacobs, Woods and Souder Miller & Associates), and the Bureau of Reclamation are holding daily meetings to coordinate every detail needed to ensure that all systems are ready to start producing and delivering good, clean drinking water. Some actions being discussed include:

1. Flush/clean and disinfect all pipelines and water storage tanks – Flushing is done by pushing water through a pipeline at a high flow rate so that the water cleans out any last bits of dirt and debris releasing it through “blow-offs” valves along the pipeline. Then the pipelines and tanks are disinfected with water containing chlorine (similar to household bleach but approved for disinfecting drinking water) to kill all the viruses and

bacteria that might be present. Bacterial testing follows to prove to the regulatory agencies that the system is disinfected and ready to transport potable water.

2. Coordinate the systematic introduction of water to the six distribution systems sequentially – NTUA will be starting the introduction of the new treated water to each distribution system in order of its location on the transmission pipeline (i.e., Carson/Huerfano, Dzilth-Na-O-Dith-Hle, Nageezi, Ojo Encino North, Torreon/Ojo Encino, and Whitehorse Lake). NTUA expects to start this process in mid-October and each system could take up to one month to complete. Given six distribution systems, it could take up to six months to introduce the new water to all the distribution systems on the Cutter Lateral.
3. Inform the public – NTUA is working on public radio announcements, brochures and other informational methods to inform the public of what to expect. In addition, Reclamation plans to conduct a social media campaign to provide updates on the testing and commissioning process.

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### Faces of NGWSP

David Stoliker, the Design Group Chief of Reclamation’s Four Corners Construction Office is retiring in January 2021 after a fulfilling career of public service.

In a career spanning six decades, David has made relationships a priority – a trait that has served him well everywhere he’s been – from Washington D.C. with the EPA, to Crownpoint with IHS, to Albuquerque and Santa Fe with local governments, and to Chicago with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. For the last 6 years, David has been with Reclamation leading the design data gathering efforts on NGWSP. In this role he has not only led key tasks associated with NGWSP (including getting the Cutter Lateral operational), but he has been a strong advocate of developing and mentoring the new crop of Reclamation engineers that he supervises.

His presence in the office and passion for helping bring water to the people will be greatly missed – we wish him the best as he starts this latest phase of his life!



Main Entrance to Cutter Lateral Water Treatment Plant, near Dzilth-na-o-dith-hle, New Mexico, in September 2020. (Reclamation photo).



If you would like to learn more visit our website at <https://www.usbr.gov/uc/progact/navajo-gallup/>.





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(Continued from front)



Construction of the Cutter Lateral Water Treatment Plant and Reach 22b: Testing and monitoring activities are underway at the Cutter Lateral Water Treatment Plant as part of the preparations being made to begin water delivery through the Cutter Lateral. (Reclamation photos)

## Latest NGWSP Construction Contract Awarded

**By Chico Quintana, Civil Engineer, Bureau of Reclamation**

On September 2, 2020, the Bureau of Reclamation awarded \$45,945,150 to Archer Western Construction, LLC of Phoenix, Arizona, to construct the Tooh Haltsooi Pumping Plant (Pumping Plant Number 4) near the community of Sheep Springs, New Mexico, and the Bahastl'ah Pumping Plant (Pumping Plant Number 7) near the Navajo communities of Twin Lakes and Coyote Canyon, New Mexico.

“Today, we take another step to provide clean, reliable water supplies to the Navajo Nation and the other project participants in rural communities,” said Commissioner Brenda Burman. “These pumping plants will help deliver water from the San Juan River to communities along the San Juan Lateral pipeline.”

Under this contract, construction will include installation of canned vertical turbine pumps and associated electrical and mechanical equipment, yard piping, and a water treatment building at the Tooh Haltsooi Pumping Plant site. Each will have four equally sized pump and motor units with a total capacity of approximately 47.7 cubic feet per second at Tooh



Computer-generated rendition of Tooh Haltsooi Pumping Plant looking towards the northwest

Haltsooi Pumping Plant and 40.4 cfs at Bahastl'ah Pumping Plant. Water storage tanks will also be constructed at each site.

Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-January of 2021, and is expected to take up to 3 years to complete.



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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