



# Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Newsletter

1st Quarter, Oct. 2021

## NAVAJO-GALLUP CONSTRUCTION MOVING FORWARD

By Patrick Page, Construction Engineer, & Hilda Castillo-Smith, Resident Civil Engineer, Bureau of Reclamation

Significant progress continues on the construction of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project. In this edition of the newsletter, we highlight the ongoing work by Reclamation and our partners on the Project.

Reclamation currently has two active construction contracts. Block 4C-8 consists of the installation of 30 miles of 48-inch- and 42-inch-diameter steel pipe between Twin Lakes and Little Water, New Mexico. The contractor, Oscar Renda Contracting, Inc., began work in January 2020 and is scheduled to be completed in the spring 2022.



Figure 1 – 42-inch steel pipe installation - Block 4c-8. By Hilda Castillo Smith



Figure 2 - Backfill of collar 7 days after placement - Block 4c-8. By Hilda Castillo Smith

The second active contract is the construction of 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 communities of Twin Lakes and Coyote Canyon, New Mexico. Contractor Archer Western began construction on the plants in January 2021 and expects to complete the work in September 2023. The pumping plants are designed to lift drinking water through the transmission pipeline to higher elevations and communities south of each plant.

Reclamation will also soon award a construction contract for the Navajo Code Talkers Sublateral that will supply water to communities along New Mexico State Highway 264 and the Window Rock/Ft. Defiance area. This construction will begin in early 2022. Reclamation's partners, including the Navajo Nation and the City of Gallup, are also busy constructing portions of the San Juan Lateral, and their efforts are highlighted in this newsletter.



### Faces of NGWSP

Teddy Lopez is a Navajo elder from the Nageezi Chapter area of the Navajo Nation. His community near Lybrook is not yet tied into the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Cutter Lateral waterline, so he and his neighbors do not have consistent access to clear, high-quality tap water.

Some of his family members must travel for work to support their families. The hope is that with more readily available water, more local businesses will come to the area and create additional jobs.

In nearby Dzilth-Nao-Dith-Hle and Nageezi communities, there were reports of poor-quality water with bad taste and smell from the community water systems prior to their connection to the Cutter Lateral system. The recent connection to the lateral has since eliminated all reports of those issues. The Navajo Nation and Souder Miller and Associates are designing the pipeline to also connect the Lybrook community water system into the Cutter Lateral to improve the water quality for residents there soon as well.

Once Lopez heard about the NGWSP, he said he became excited and started making plans to build more businesses in the community in the future: another gas station, a hotel, a truck stop, a car wash, and a laundromat. Lopez said he would like the Navajo Nation community to understand how important the Cutter Lateral is for helping to create jobs and improve the quality of life for future generations.



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





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## Pueblo Pintado Chapter and Torreon Chapter Construction Update

By Tory Tadano, Project Engineer, Souder, Miller & Associates

### NGWSP Reach 26.1 & 26.2

The construction of Reaches 26.1 and 26.2 are complete, and the water transmission system is online and currently supplying Cutter Lateral water to the Pueblo Pintado community water system, as well as the Whitehorse Lake community water system through the Eastern Navajo Water Pipeline Phase 4. The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority will own and operate the Navajo Nation and SMA-designed reaches, which started delivering clean and reliable project water to both communities on May 24. The pipeline capacity flowrate is 540 gallons per minute and includes two new water storage tanks at Pueblo Pintado, a chlorinator, a surge tank, and pressure reducing valve.

### NGWSP Reach 26.3

The construction of Reach 26.3 is complete, and the water transmission system is online and currently supplying project water to the Torreon community water system. Like Reaches 26.1 and 26.2, The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority will own and operate this reach, which started delivering Cutter Lateral water to the Torreon community on April 15. The pipeline capacity is 807 gallons per minute and includes two new water storage tanks at a new tank site known as the 26.3 Tank site, a chlorinator, and pressure reducing valve.

## Gallup Regional Water System Construction Update

By Kurt Spolar, Engineer, DePauli Engineering and Surveying, LLC

The Gallup Regional Water System is now 70% complete with Reaches 13, 27.1, 27.3, 27.5, 27.6, 27.7A, 27.9, 27.10 and 27.13 complete and currently delivering water.



Reach 27.5 Gamero Tanks

The Navajo communities and NTUA water systems currently being served by the GRWS include Manuelito, Yahtahey, Gamero, Coal Basin and the Boardman Navajo communities. The regional system will also deliver water to Iyanbito and Churchrock as soon as Reaches 14.1 and 14.2 are completed by the Indian Health Service.

As the GRWS system nears completion, private and public developers are using the improved water system to attract new industries, hospitals, and housing in the GRWS service area. These new water demands, and the delay of the San

Juan Lateral water deliveries, has created a shortage in water production capacity.

Water system planning efforts now include identifying funds with the help of the NGWSP Project Participants, to design and construct six new groundwater wells to increase the system's production capacity. The estimated design and construction cost for each of the proposed wells is \$3.5 million.

Reach 27.12 and the additional wells are planned for construction and to be in operation before the end of 2025. With proper management and planning, the GRWS will be a catalyst for economic development in the City of Gallup, McKinley County, the adjacent Navajo Chapters, and surrounding communities.

### Reach 27.11

- Is scheduled to begin in early 2022
- Total cost of \$5.6 million
- Deliver drinking water to Red Rock, Bread Springs, and Chichilitah Chapters

### Reach 27.7B

- Is scheduled to begin construction in late 2022
- Total estimated cost of \$8.3 million
- Deliver drinking water to Pinedale and Mariano Lake



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