



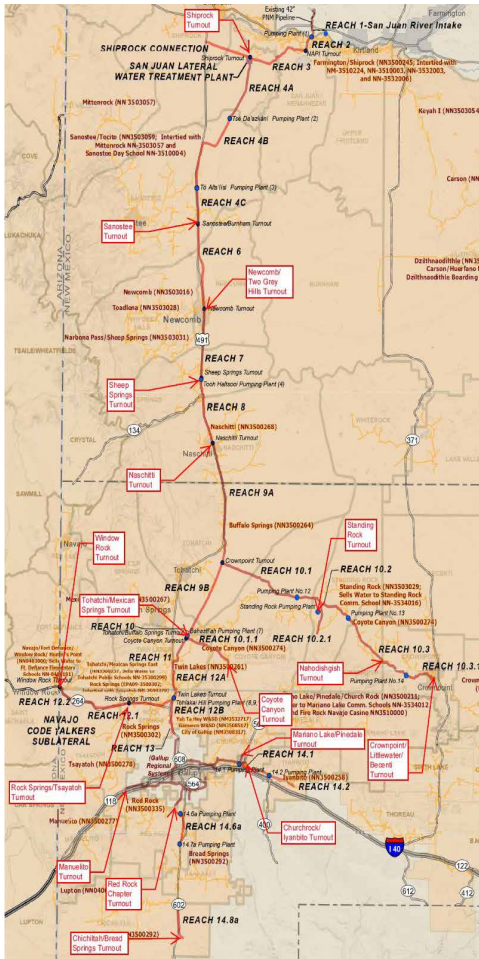
Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Newsletter

1st Quarter, Oct. 2022

How communities will get water from the NGWSP Pipeline

By Hubert Quintana, Bureau of Reclamation-Four Corners Construction Office

Anyone driving along Hwy 491 between Little Water and Twin Lakes has witnessed waterline construction the last few years on the San Juan Lateral side of the NGWSP. Do you ever wonder how the water will get from the pipeline to the communities and individual homes? The San Juan Lateral is shown in the picture below with the various “turnout” locations labeled. A “turnout” is the designated location in the main pipeline where each community’s water distribution system will be connected. The turnout locations shown also represent communities whose



chapter leadership is working with the Navajo Nation to manage the pre-construction/construction projects which will connect each community into the pipeline. As of August, the funds have already been granted to design the connection plans into the Sanostee, Newcomb/Two Grey Hills, Sheep Springs, Naschitti, Rock Springs/Tsayatoh, and Tohatchi/Mexican Springs communities and data collection has already begun. This has been accomplished through a combined funding effort from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA-Federal Funds), the State of New Mexico (State Funds) and Navajo Tribal Funds. Also notice those turnouts being installed as part of the BBN9 Sublateral construction by the Navajo Nation. Beyond the initial connection into NGWSP, each chapter will continue working to obtain the funds to develop their individual community plans where having a reliable water supply available will allow for growth of new businesses and homes, as well as to help those residents not currently connected to the existing NTUA water system.

NGWSP construction completion is scheduled for 2028 with first surface water deliveries being at that time. Substantial completion is estimated for 2029 after a year-long testing period. Reclamation continues to visit Chapter meetings to supply project updates in the various communities during scheduled monthly meetings, or by request. Please contact Becky Begay, the Navajo Outreach Coordinator for Reclamation out of the Four Corners Construction Office with any requests to coordinate a visit with your Chapter about the NGWSP at bbegay@usbr.gov.



Faces of NGWSP

Greetings! My name is David Shoultz, PE, Principal Engineer, Water/Wastewater Engineering Division for the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority. I'm also acting as the NGWSP Liaison and Operations Manager. I was with the Indian Health Service water and wastewater construction and operations support programs for 30 years and have been with NTUA the past eight years. I oversee NTUA's heavy construction and complex water and wastewater facility operations, maintenance, and replacement. Recently, my focus has been assuring a smooth transition of the operations of the NGWSP Cutter Lateral from the Bureau of Reclamation to the NTUA. The commitment by all those working for the Project's success, from Reclamation and BIA, to the Navajo Nation and Navajo chapter governments and many organizations in between, is impressive due in large part to the objective of bringing water to the Diné.

As evidenced with the recent delivery of Cutter Lateral drinking water to Navajo homes, the progress being made on this Project brings a reliable and sustainable community water supply closer to reality for tens of thousands of Navajo homes and I'm so pleased for the opportunity to be a part of this project.



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



What's been happening in the Coyote Canyon Area?

Kristin L. Bowen,
Environmental & Cultural Group Chief

Residents in the Coyote Canyon Chapter area have likely noticed archaeologists conducting fieldwork along the future BBN9 Lateral, also known as the Crownpoint Lateral. These archaeologists are subcontracted by Souder Miller & Associates as part of their contract with the Navajo Nation to comply with the Navajo Nation Cultural Resource Protection Act on the proposed pipeline routes. Cultural surveys of the area began in 2020 with the goal of locating vital resources that would need to be avoided with the pipeline. This was done by archaeologists walking the proposed pipeline route, looking at the ground surface for any signs of cultural resources, and by ethnographers interviewing residents and others knowledgeable of the area to document Navajo historic and traditional cultural locations.

Last spring archaeologists conducted further investigations for cultural resources located in the portion of the proposed pipeline route called Reach 10.1.1 (aka the Coyote Canyon



An archaeologist from the Statistical Research, Inc. conducts magnetometry and ground penetrating radar along the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project at Reach 10.1.

Turnout pipeline), in the Coyote Canyon Chapter, utilizing non-invasive ground penetrating radar and magnetometry. These methods allow researchers to “see” what is below the ground surface without having to disturb the area and helps archaeologists determine if there are any features below the ground surface to inform the ultimate pipeline alignment route and potentially plan where future archaeological work may need to occur if re-routing the pipeline is not feasible.

Because no major finds were made on the 10.1.1 reach, archaeological excavations are not needed. The archaeologists have moved on to the 10.1 reach along the main BBN9 Lateral, which starts at Highway 491 and stretches east to near Soft Water Wash, and have been conducting the non-ground disturbing remote sensing there in recent months. If the collaborative pipeline design and archaeology investigations continue on schedule, the Navajo Nation plans to begin construction of the BBN9 Lateral and Reach 10.1.1 next year.

Rock Springs Chapter Prepares to use the NGWSP for Economic Development

Becky Begay, Navajo Outreach Coordinator

The construction of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project's Navajo Code Talkers Sublateral has started along the north side of Highway 264 between the Yah-Tah-Hey junction and Tsé Bonito, New Mexico. The waterline will provide clean drinking water for the communities of Tsayatoh and Rock Springs Chapters in New Mexico and the Fort Defiance and Saint Michaels Chapters in Arizona, providing those communities with opportunities for economic development that would not be possible without this reliable water supply.

The Rock Springs Chapter has started community planning on utilizing the NGWSP water for economic development of 80 acres of land. Currently, the Chapter does not have any businesses located within their Chapter area, requiring Chapter members to drive many miles for necessary services. Since 2014, the Chapter started planning on using this land to build a business park to provide critical community services. Businesses would include a multipurpose building, convenience store, senior center, head-start education center, restaurant/shop, chapter house, laundromat, gymnasium, and more. Rock Springs Chapter Community Coordinator Sherman Yazzie said they are currently working on obtaining funding for this business park through the New Mexico Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) and the Navajo Nation Capital Project Management Department, as well as completing the archaeology/environmental assessment. He said once the Navajo Nation approves the business park, it will take seven years to complete, provided funding comes through. He said he would like all young Navajo community members to help their Nation by being more involved at the local level, working with the Community Land Use Planning Committee (CLUPC) and bringing new ideas to the table to help make best use of the water that is coming.



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