



Welcoming Brent Rhees as the new Regional Director



On March 26, 2015, Commissioner Estevan López announced Brent Rhees, P.E., as Upper Colorado Regional Director. Rhees has served as the Salt Lake City-based region's deputy regional director since October 2007.

In his new role, Rhees will oversee all Reclamation operations in most of Utah, New Mexico and western Colorado, as well as northern Arizona, a portion of west Texas, the southeast corner of Idaho and southwestern Wyoming. The responsibility includes oversight of Reclamation programs, projects and facilities, and encompasses 62 dams with a reservoir capacity of more than 32 million acre feet, 28 hydroelectric powerplants that meet electricity needs of more than 1.3 million people, and multiple recreation opportunities for about 12 million annual visitors.

As deputy regional director, Brent managed several complex and high profile issues, including the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program, dam safety modifications, and implementation of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, the Colorado River Salinity Control Program and completion of the Animas La-Plata Project.

Brent has 35 years of federal service. He started in Reclamation's Denver Office in 1980 as a rotation engineer, moved to the Upper Colorado Regional Office in 1981 to serve as Engineering Services Office supervisor and construction liaison. He transferred to the Provo Area Office in March 1993 to serve in



several key management positions including three division manager positions and as the deputy area manager from June 2004 to October 2007.

Brent is a recipient of the DOI's Superior Service Award in recognition of his significant contributions and leadership in Western water issues. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering from Utah State University and is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Utah.

We're looking forward to have Brent as our new Regional Director and congratulations!

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Reclamation Receives Excellence in Concrete Award for Work on Echo Dam



By Jayne Kelleher
Technical Writer/Editor

On March 4, 2015, the Intermountain Chapter of the American Concrete Institute presented the Bureau of Reclamation's Provo Area Office with the 2015 Excellence in Concrete Award for work on the Echo Dam spillway modification. Mike Talbot, Resident Engineer for the project, and Cary Southworth, Civil Engineer, accepted the award on behalf of Reclamation.

Echo Dam, part of the Weber River Project, is a zoned earthfill structure located about six miles north of Coalville, Utah. In March 2010, a risk analysis was completed indicating the need for expedited action to correct seismic deficiencies at Echo Dam and spillway. Studies conducted under Reclamation's Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams Program indicated that potentially liquefiable materials were present within the dam foundation and underneath the spillway control structure at Echo Dam. With a loss of strength induced by strong seismic motion, the embankment crest could subside and lead to catastrophic failure of the dam and reservoir.

Investigations indicated that the most cost effective and verifiable method of downstream treatment would



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be to excavate the liquefiable soil and replace it with a dense, compacted fill. Modification of the spillway control structure and its underlying foundation was also determined to be required. A Safety of Dams modification report was approved by Congress on November 12, 2010.

The foundation and embankment contract was awarded in August 2011 and completed in September 2012, including dewatering. The contract for reconstruction of the spillway was awarded on September 7, 2012, with major work having started in July 2013 under an early start authorization issued to take advantage of low reservoir water levels. The control structure was replaced and the refurbished radial gates reinstalled. A final inspection was accomplished on May 29, 2014, and the project is considered complete with the exception of minor closeout work.



The Safety of Dams modification work at Echo was completed ahead of schedule, under budget, and void of any claims, disputes, or accidents. Reclamation's project team included engineers, inspectors, material technicians, surveyors, biologists, and others. The team worked long hours, often in adverse conditions, to contribute to this successful effort.

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Kids and Cars



Every year, thousands of children are hurt or die because a driver backing up didn't see them.

These incidents for the most part take place in residential driveways or parking lots.

- The predominant age of victims are one year olds. (12-23 months)
- Over 60% of backing up incidents involved a larger size vehicle. (truck, van, SUV)
- Tragically, in over 70% of these incidents, a parent or close relative is behind the wheel.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2/18/05 study reports over 2400 children are treated in hospital emergency rooms every year due a child being struck by or rolled over by a vehicle moving in reverse.

In the U.S. fifty children are being backed over by vehicles EVERY week. Forty-eight (48) are treated in hospital emergency rooms and at least two (2) children are fatality injured every WEEK.

Because we are driving larger, longer and higher vehicles we are seeing many more backover incidents. This problem is only going to get worse unless we work for better visibility behind the vehicles we drive. The government is currently working on a rear visibility standard that will be required of all motor vehicles sold or leased in the U.S. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has released a proposed rear visibility standard that would require all motor vehicles sold or leased in the U.S. come equipped with backup cameras by the year 2014. The rear visibility standard will be finalized by the end of year 2011.

Education and awareness of backovers will continue to be critical for years to come, despite the fact that new vehicles will all have backup cameras by 2014. That's because there are millions of older model vehicles being driven that do not have this technology.



KidsAndCars.org urges all adults to heighten their awareness before they engage a vehicle into reverse; especially when children are present. Young children are impulsive and unpredictable; still have very poor judgment and little understanding of danger. In addition, young children do not recognize boundaries such as property lines, sidewalks, driveways or parking spaces. Toddlers have established independent mobility between the ages of 12-23 months, but the concept of personal safety is absent. Backovers are often the predictable consequence of a child following a parent into the driveway and standing behind their vehicle without their parent's knowledge.

Backovers can happen in ANY vehicle because all vehicles have a blind zone; the area behind a vehicle you cannot see from the driver's seat. The danger tends to increase with larger vehicles. It's always best to look carefully behind the vehicle before you get in and again before you put the car in gear to back up. Remember to back up slowly, and pay attention to your mirrors.

KidsAndCars.org recommendations to keep children safe include:

- Walk around and behind a vehicle prior to moving it.
- Know where your kids are. Make children move away from your vehicle to a place where they are in full view before moving the car and know that another adult is properly supervising children before moving your vehicle.
- Teach children that "parked" vehicles might move. Let them know that they can see the vehicle; but the driver might not be able to see them.
- Consider installing cross view mirrors, audible collision detectors, rear view video camera and/or some type of back up detection device.
- Measure the size of your blind zone (area) behind the vehicle(s) you drive. A 5-foot-1-inch driver in a pickup truck can have a rear blind zone of approximately 8 feet wide by 50 feet long.
- Be aware that steep inclines and large SUV's, vans and trucks add to the difficulty of seeing behind a vehicle.
- Hold children's hand when leaving the vehicle.
- Teach your children to never play in, around or behind a vehicle and always set the emergency brake.
- Keep toys and other sports equipment off the driveway.
- Homeowners should trim landscaping around the driveway to ensure they can see the sidewalk, street and pedestrians clearly when backing out of their driveway. Pedestrians also need to be able to see a vehicle pulling out of the driveway.
- Never leave children alone in or around cars; not even for a minute.
- Keep vehicles locked at all times; even in the garage or driveway.
- Keys and/or remote openers should never be left within reach of children.
- Make sure all child passengers have left the car after it is parked.
- Be especially careful about keeping children safe in and around cars during busy times, schedule changes and periods of crisis or holidays.



These precautions can save lives. For additional information visit www.KidsAndCars.org

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Four Corners Construction Office Conducts Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise



By Beth Fox

The Four Corners Construction Office (FCCO), in conjunction with the Upper Colorado (UC) Regional Security Office and the San Juan County Office of Emergency Management (SJCOEM), recently conducted the first ever Active Shooter tabletop exercise for an office within the UC Region. A tabletop exercise is a facilitated analysis of an emergency situation in an informal, stress-free environment. It is designed to elicit constructive discussion as participants examine and resolve problems based on existing operational plans and identify where those plans need to be refined.

The concept of conducting an Active Shooter tabletop exercise was spawned following an All-Employees Meeting in which the training video developed by the City of Houston titled, “RUN HIDE FIGHT – Surviving an Active Shooter Event” was shown. Planning for the exercise began this spring when representatives from SJCOEM visited the new FCCO office building to discuss concepts with FCCO management and key safety staff. The SJCOEM reps conducted a walkthrough of the facilities, taking photographs and noting deficiencies and items of concern. The photos and the information they gathered during the walkthrough were used to develop a PowerPoint presentation describing a potential active shooter situation.

The exercise was conducted on March 25, 2015, and involved approximately 35 FCCO employees, Andy Wood (UC Region Security Officer), representatives from SJCOEM, the San Juan County Sheriff’s Office, the Communication Authority "911" Dispatch, and City of Farmington Fire Department. The scenario that was depicted was that an individual, who had recently interviewed for a job at FCCO, shows up at the office to discuss his potential job status with the selecting official. After learning that he cannot be hired, the individual leaves the building very distraught. He returns immediately from the parking lot carrying a handgun. The subject gains entry into the building and moves to the selecting official’s office and begins to open fire – we have an Active Shooter Situation.

All participants were well engaged in the tabletop exercise and it resulted in an open and dynamic dialogue between FCCO employees and the emergency management professionals, such as:



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- Who calls 911? Answer: ALL employees – don't assume that someone else is going to make the call.
- Who's in charge? Answer: Head of Office
- Do you wait for direction? Answer: No – practice RUN HIDE FIGHT (in that order).
- What should be your first reactions? Answer: Run - Hide - Call 911
- What is your main concern? Answer: Get away from situation if possible and call 911 to get law enforcement notified. The goal is to get away to avoid injury or becoming a hostage. Identify safe rooms that lock from the inside, have solid core doors, some type of communication in the room, water, and 5 gallon bucket for emergency.
- What about the wounded? Answer: Once law enforcement arrives on scene they will address the threat and will deal with the wounded after the threat is stopped.
- Keep in mind if dialing "911" from within the building (at FCCO) you have to still dial (9) to get an outside line and then 911 - in other words "9911" needs to be dialed.
- After dialing either 9911 or 911 the employee must be prepared to identify the office location and their location to the operator. Without a location emergency services will be delayed in getting help to you.
- Realistically in the event something like this happens employees would get in their cars and leave - but the main thing is to get away from the threat and communicate either with your supervisor or 911 that you have left. Managers and Supervisors need to have a head count of whom was in the office for the day to relay back to emergency personnel.
- The office agreed to identify a safe rally point where accountability of employees could begin

Employees felt that the training was useful and enlightening to a potential situation. Having law enforcement in the room to explain exactly what they would do was truly enlightening.



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Safety Bulletin

Ice Safety



By Dan Mitchell
Regional Safety Manager

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to share safety and health information among facilities within UC Region. This bulletin is the result of an incident that occurred within our Region and may be relevant to your facility and operations.

BACKGROUND

Environmental sampling was completed at a body of water that was covered with ice. Personal protective equipment (PPE), such as personal floatation devices (PFDs) not used. In response to this incident the work group, including employees, reviewed and updated job procedures.

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

Within ice, over time the bonds between crystals decay, making it weaker even if melting has not occurred. Slush is an indication that ice can be weak or deteriorating. Ice doesn't freeze evenly on the surface of any body of water and thin patches of ice can't always be distinguished. In addition, ice strength is affected by water current, wind, and other factors. Generally, solid ice that is not at least four to six inches thick or that is snow covered may not sustain the weight of a person.



WHAT IS THE RISK?

Due to inherent uncertainty and constant changes of ice conditions, there is always some risk every time you go out onto ice. Falling through the ice may result in hypothermia, drowning or death.

WHAT CONTROLS ARE RECOMMENDED?

- Update or develop job plans and Job Hazard Analyses (JHA) to address the site-specific conditions
- **Do not perform work on ice unless absolutely necessary**
- Assemble safety equipment including PPE, bright-colored clothing, crampons (creepers), PFDs, ropes, first aid kits, matches, pair of ice picks or screwdrivers, with wooden handles, for every participant
- Each team member should have a cell phone
- Upon Arrival, park the vehicle on dry land
Assess condition of the ice and identify higher- risk areas, such as cracks, seams, pressure ridges, slushy areas and darker areas to avoid. Update the JHA accordingly
- Never go out onto the ice alone; use the buddy system. Stay at least ten yards apart while on the ice
- If you should fall through the ice and you have “spiked” yourself out or have been pulled out, don't stand - roll across the ice

For more information, please visit the [Ohio State University Extension](#).

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EO 13693 - PLANNING FOR FEDERAL SUSTAINABILITY IN THE NEXT DECADE

On March 19, 2015, the President signed *Executive Order 13693 - Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade*.



- Combines the requirements of EO 13423 [*Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*] and EO 13514 [*Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance*] along with various Presidential Memorandums –
 - Presidential Memorandum of December 2, 2011 (Implementation of Energy Savings Projects and Performance-Based Contracting for Energy Savings);
 - Section 1 of Presidential Memorandum of February 21, 2012 (Driving Innovation and Creating Jobs in Rural America through Biobased and Sustainable Product Procurement); and
 - Presidential Memorandum of December 5, 2013 (Federal Leadership on Energy Management); and
 - Presidential Memorandum of May 24, 2011 (Federal Fleet Performance).
- The EO revokes these previous documents



Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions

- Agencies need to establish GHG Scope 1&2 and Scope 3 reduction goals out to FY 2025 relative to FY 2008
- Beginning in FY 2016, report Scope 3 emissions for new leases over 10,000 rentable square feet
 - Requires lessors to disclose emissions or energy consumption for agency occupied space
 - Rebaselining is likely

Energy Intensity Reductions

- Reduce building energy intensity (Btu/GSF) by 2.5% annually through FY 2025 (25% reduction) relative to FY 2015
- Improve data center energy efficiency
 - Install advanced meters in all data centers by FY 2018
 - Power usage effectiveness for new data centers to be 1.2 to 1.4, and for existing data centers less than 1.5
- Continue implementing performance contracting for energy savings

Renewable Energy

- Increase renewable electricity use to 30% of total facility electricity use by FY 2025
- Increase total use of renewable electricity and renewable thermal energy to 25% of total facility energy use by FY 2025 - New metric but all data is currently reported

Water Use Efficiency

- Reduce potable water intensity (Gal/GSF) by 2% annually through FY 2025 (36% reduction) relative to FY 2007
- Reduce industrial, landscape, and agricultural water use by 2% annually through FY 2025 (30% reduction) relative to FY 2010
- Install water meters
- Install appropriate green infrastructure

Fleet Management

- Reduce fleet-wide per mile GHG emissions by 30% by FY 2025 relative to FY 2014
- Deploy vehicle telematics at vehicle asset level for all new passenger and light duty vehicles, and for medium duty vehicles where appropriate
- Ensure 50% of all new passenger vehicles are zero emission or plug-in hybrid vehicles by December 31, 2025

Sustainable Buildings

- At least 15% by number or square footage of buildings above 5,000 GSF comply with Revised Guiding Principles by FY 2025
- Beginning FY 2020, all new building construction greater than 5,000 GSF entering the planning process be designed to achieve energy net-zero, and where feasible water or waste net-zero by FY 2030
- Identify and implement the percentage of existing buildings that will be energy, waste, or water net-zero by FY 2025
- Include fleet charging infrastructure for all new buildings, major renovations, repair, and alterations of existing buildings
- Incorporate climate resilient design and management into building inventory



Sustainable Acquisition

- Continue use of recycled content products; Energy Star, FEMP designated, WaterSense, Biopreferred and biobased products; etc.
- Achieve at least 95% compliance with Biopreferred and biobased products
- Establish an annual target for number of contracts and dollar value of BioPreferred and biobased products

Electronic Stewardship

- Establish and implement policies to enable power management, duplex printing, and other energy efficient or environmental sustainable features on electronic products
- Employ environmental sound practices to dispose of excess or surplus electronic products

Waste and Pollution Prevention

- Divert at least 50% non-hazardous solid waste annually includes food and compostable material, pursue opportunities for net-zero waste
- Divert at least 50% non-hazardous construction and demolition materials and debris
- Reduce quantity of toxic and hazardous chemicals and materials acquired, used, or disposed of

Facility Climate Preparedness and Resilience

- Consistent with requirements of EO 13653, identify and address projected impacts of climate change on mission critical water, energy, communication and transportation demands; consider climate impacts in operational preparedness planning
- Calculate potential cost and risk to mission associated with agency operations

Sustainable Commuting and Work-Related Travel Practices

- Agencies to consider the development of policy to promote sustainable commuting and travel practices for Federal employees that foster workplace vehicle-charging, telecommuting, teleconferencing, reward carpooling and use of public transportation where consistent with Federal appropriations law

Employee Education and Training

- OPM to consider establishment of dedicated Federal occupational series for sustainability professionals
- OPM to initiate inclusion of sustainability and climate preparedness and resilience training particularly for SES and GS-15 personnel

Other Expectations

- Agencies must designate a Chief Sustainability Officer within 45 days (May 2015)
- EO Implementing Guidance will be issued within 45 days (May 2015)
- Agencies submit new GHG reduction targets within 90 days (June 2015)
- Revised Sustainable Buildings Guiding Principles will be issued within 150 days (September 2015)
- Guidance for determining projected climate impacts will be issued within 150 days (September 2015)

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April is National Autism Awareness Month



Nearly a quarter century ago, the Autism Society launched a nationwide effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all, and assure that each person with ASD is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life. This year we want to go beyond simply promoting autism awareness to encouraging friends and collaborators to become partners in movement toward acceptance and appreciation.

Let's embrace a new perspective. For 50 years we have worked in communities (both large and small) to ensure our actions, through our services and programming, supported all individuals living with autism. Let's expand this work to focus on the rest of us – ensuring acceptance and inclusion in schools and communities that result in true appreciation of the unique aspects of all people. We want to get one step closer to a society where those with ASDs are truly valued for their unique talents and gifts.

Join us in celebration for 2015 National Autism Awareness Month! National Autism Awareness Month represents an excellent opportunity to promote autism awareness, autism acceptance and to draw attention to the tens of thousands facing an autism diagnosis each year.

How is it celebrated?

- Presidential/Congressional declarations
- Online events and activities
- [Local events and activities through affiliates](#)
- Partner opportunities
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What can I do?

- Place the [NAAM logo badge](#) on your blog, Facebook profile, Twitter page or other social media site! Customize it to include your logo too!
- Download the [NAAM poster](#) and distribute to schools, libraries and community centers in your neighborhood.
- [Recognize someone who is affected by autism](#) and share your nomination on social media. Tag #AutismUniquelyYou so we can share your story.
- [Sign up for e-newsletter Autism Matters](#) to continue sharing ideas on how to make a better world for autism here.
- [Share your experience/stories with NAAM or autism with us!](#)



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#AutismUniquelyYOU – Celebrating the Uniqueness in Us All!

Be unique, be you! #AutismUniquelyYou is a month-long social media campaign celebrating self-identity and acceptance and appreciation for how each of us does our part to make the world a better place for autism. It's a simple concept – hand painting for a cause and raising awareness for the Autism Society. The campaign encourages people to paint their hands, make a video or take a picture of a unique product, share it on social media, urge others to do the same! Share our [how-to video](#) with your friends and collaborators.



Put on the Puzzle! The Autism Awareness Puzzle Ribbon is the most recognized symbol of the autism community in the world. Autism prevalence is now one in every 68 children in America. Show your support for people with autism by wearing the Autism Awareness Puzzle Ribbon – as a pin on your shirt, a magnet on your car, a badge on your blog, or even your Facebook profile picture – and educate folks on the potential of people with autism! To learn more about the Autism Awareness Ribbon, [click here](#). To purchase the Autism Awareness Puzzle Ribbon for your shirt, car, locker or refrigerator, [click here](#).

Connect with your neighborhood. Many Autism Society [local affiliates](#) hold special events in their communities throughout the month of April. But if you can't find an event that suits you just right, [create your own!](#)

Watch a movie. Did you know that something that seems as simple as going to the movies is not an option for many families affected by autism? The Autism Society is working with [AMC Theatres](#) to bring special-needs families *Sensory Friendly Films* every month.



Donate to the Autism Society: Help improve the lives of all impacted by autism with a financial gift to the Autism Society. Every dollar raised by the Autism Society allows us to improve the capabilities and services of our over 100 nationwide affiliates, provide the best national resource database and contact center specializing in autism, and increase public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with ASD and their families.

For more information, visit [Autism Society](#).

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7th Grade Student Engineer “To Be” Olivia Culley Presents Her Penstock Theory



By Stacey Smith

Attendees of the Regional Director’s staff meeting were in the right place at the right time on April 6, when Stacey Smith introduced Olivia Culley, a 7th grade student from St. Francis Xavier School (Kearns, Utah) who amazed everyone with her “Stocked Up Water” demonstration model.

Based on information she obtained partly from Reclamation’s web site and brochure/fact sheet materials Smith provides at youth outreach events, 13-year-old Olivia created a working model of a dam and hydroelectric power generator to prove her hypothesis regarding the angle of water intakes/penstocks and the potential increase in power generation efficiency. This young ‘engineer-to-be’ impressed everyone with her knowledge and capability in science and technology as well as her dynamic personality, confident presence, and impressive oral presentation skills.

Stacey Smith learned about Olivia through his extensive involvement in many youth outreach events. “I thought it would be great for this future engineering student and maybe even a future Reclamation engineer to get the opportunity to show our agency what she’s done,” Smith said. “I was really excited to discover someone so young with skills and interest in engineering and water resource related innovation! That’s the future in Reclamation.”

Olivia has received 1st place awards in numerous science competitions within her grade in school. At the Salt Lake Valley Engineering Fair, she placed 3rd and received an honorable mentions for civil engineering and women in technology.



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“I became interested in dams when Stacey Smith introduced me to dams last year. I had many questions about dams, so he there lead me to the Bureau of Reclamation website. I looked on the website and had many questions. My school requires science fair, so I thought that the science fair was a perfect opportunity to answer one of my questions. Even though my school does require science fair, I would have still tested out my problem and found the answer to my question. During my whole science fair, Stacey acted as my mentor, answering as many questions as he could. I could have just made a simple dam, but I realized that I like to see data and to go through formulas, so that is when I started to come up with ideas when I ended up coming up with a way to find how many millivolts the dam that I created would produce and went from there. I did realize this past year that I am very interested in engineering and having data. Last year I tested two different concussion headbands to see which one protects the head best. I looked at the different structures of the headbands and the different foams (materials) inside of each one. I am still unsure what I want to be when I grow up but I am hoping that it will be in engineering.”

Olivia Culley

After Olivia’s presentation, Smith took the opportunity to introduce her to some of the staff in Senator Mike Lee’s office. If you didn’t get the opportunity to meet this amazing young lady, look for her in the future... maybe she’ll be working for Reclamation!



CULLEY’S PRESENTATION OUTLINE



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Problem:

Does the angle of the penstock of a dam affect the amount of electricity a dam can produce?

Hypothesis:

If the power in a dam increases when the acceleration of the water increases, and if the angle of a penstock can affect the acceleration of the water, and if the acceleration of the water affects the amount of energy produce, then I predict that when the angle of the penstock sharpens, the energy the dam creates increases.

Conclusion:

I accept my hypothesis that when the angle of a penstock sharpens, the amount of power that a dam can produce increases. I also reject my hypothesis because once the angle has past 90°, the power will decrease.

- The average of 0° is 173.5 mV. The average in volts is 0.1735 V.
- The average of 45° is 199.75 mV. The average in volts is 0.19975 V.
- The average of 90° is 346.5 mV. The average in volts is 0.3465 V.
- The average of 135° is 203.5 mV. The average in volts is 0.2035 V.

CULLEY'S SCIENCE COMPETITION RECOGNITION**St. Francis Xavier School Science Fair:**

- 1st in 7th grade Engineering
- 1st in Engineering all grades
- 1st overall 7th grade (all categories)
- Top Scientist of the year (1st in all grades all categories)

Diocesan Science Fair (Region):

- 2nd in 7th grade Engineering
- Best Oral Presentation (all categories all grades)
- Invention for SLVSEF (state)

Salt Lake Valley Engineering Fair SLVSEF (State)

- 3rd in Materials & Civil Engineering 7th and 8th grade
- Honorable mention in Civil Engineering 7th and 8th grade
- Salt Lake Public Utilities Junior Division
- National Center for Women and Information Technology Honorable Mention

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Thoughts from Brent Rhees – New Regional Director

Monday, April 6, was the first workday for me as your new Regional Director. I want each one of you to know how proud I am to be the Director of the Upper Colorado Region. I have worked for Reclamation for 35 years and all but one has been here in the region. I know many of you and many of you know me. I am confident that knowing one another is a good thing – we know one another's strengths, as well as our weaknesses. I have trust in you and I hope that your trust in me is well founded. We have 701 employees in the region, spread from Salt Lake City, Utah to El Paso, Texas. Take a minute and think on that – 700 of your peers working together toward the same goal. Wouldn't that be something – all of us working together? Just think of what we could accomplish if we were all pulling, lifting, pushing, and leading toward the same end result. I know that isn't always the case, and in fact at times



we might even be duplicitous in our nature and direction. On occasion I have called us a multi-headed monster with many personalities like a character from Greek mythology or a science fiction novel. At times we have internal conflicts and find ourselves like the mathematical headless vectors with all speed and no direction. Not quite sure where we are going, but wherever it is, we are going to get there as fast as we can. If I can do one thing in this new position it will be to help us move collectively in the same direction. To leverage the strength and capabilities that each of us brings to work every day. By working together, we can accomplish great things.

I believe that our direction and goals are founded in the mission of the agency simply stated as, “The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.” Can you make the connection with what you are doing in your daily work to accomplishing the mission? I hope so. I can for myself, and I can for each one of you.

Let me make a simple request of each one of you. Help your peers to be successful. I am not saying abandon your own responsibilities and duties – we each need to be accountable for that. What I am talking about is the simple act – you know what I mean. When we see one of our peers in need do we step up and help or do we pull up a chair and watch?

Let me just say again how proud I am to be your new Director. I am looking forward to the opportunities and challenges that are in front of us. I am looking forward to getting out and meeting with you as soon as I can. Thanks for all you do to make this the greatest region in Reclamation.

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Who's New

Larry Moore



Larry Moore, Environmental Protection Specialist, Major Projects Division, Albuquerque Area Office.

Larry came to us from the Bureau of Land Management office in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he was an archaeologist. Larry has a Master's in Anthropology and has worked as both an archaeologist and an Environmental Protection Specialist over the last 10 years.

He wanted to move to Albuquerque as he needed “a high and dry atmosphere” and he was happy to get out of the cultural resource world for a while. Larry states that the Aamodt project is a “very busy, complicated, and interesting project.” Larry is divorced and has a 24-year old daughter who lives in Denver, Colorado. He is happy to be here and is enjoying

meeting everyone.

Larry has two seal point Siamese cats, Ping, and Meiling, brother and sister, who are currently 14½ years old.

Larry's hobbies include golf and archaeology.

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Lindsey Sheppard



Lindsey Sheppard, Mail and File Clerk, Regional Office.

I got to Reclamation based on my Dad's experience here. He worked in the Lower Colorado Region in Human Resources and he said that if I wanted to continue to have an amazing insurance program, to get on board with Reclamation.

I love to host/ plan parties and I am extremely creative so I can turn anything into a game or a contest. I have two little boys, Ace, whose 4 and Benson, who is 17 months. Ace is my emotional and comical guy, Benson, well as long as there is food in front of him, he's happy! They are so opposite, Ace has olive skin and brown eyes and Benson is fair skinned with the brightest blue eyes I've ever seen. I love variety so it works! I am a avid camper, I hate hiking but I love to collect branches, go fishing, and turn on my survival skills. I was on the tennis team in high school, the tennis courts are named after my family. “Ace” is actually a tennis term so it's kind of been engraved that we are a tennis



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family and that he WILL play ha! The language I speak, well, still actually working on English, I mess up my words all the time! Right now, I love the books my kids like, and I've almost got them memorized. It's called "No David" and sometimes I change the name David to Ace... Little stinker ha! The television character I simply adore is Zac Efron! I was in middle school when "High School Musical" came out and I was convinced that we were going to meet and fall in love! I am a huge fan and he's not too bad on the eyes either. I read a quote that states "My taste in music ranges from "You gotta hear this" to "Don't judge me" and I find that very true. If there is a beat and I can dance to it, I love it! I love all things comedy, if I watch a suspenseful movie, I keep putting myself in that situation and try to over analyze the movie so I try to steer clear of those and I hate to cry so I don't like chick flicks. I love St. George, I love the heat and I love the red rocks.

The one word that would best describe me would be spontaneous! My motto of life is very simple. I have it in big letters in my kids rooms. It says "What if I fall? Oh, But darling, What if you fly?" I believe there is always a risk in things that can change your life for the better and the biggest risk of all is taking a chance on yourself. Failure happens, rejection happens, but the lessons learned are only going to help you fly higher in life :)

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Becky Begay



My name is Becky Begay and I am from Fruitland, NM. I have received my B.S. in Environmental Science from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS and my M.P.S. from State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Throughout my educational endeavor I conducted water quality research and cultural knowledge dialogue in Costa Rica and Gorno Altaisk- Siberia. My background in interpreting the sciences, understanding the importance of water management within tribal communities, and wanting to work within my own community brought me to Reclamation.

Some things about me are, my special interests are traveling, visiting, and experiencing different cultural life throughout the world. Sharing my life experience and educating youth and young adults in the importance of education. My talent is that I can assist college students in graduating college debt free. I speak Dinè and English. My favorite authors are Michael Pollan, Kent Nerburn, Daniel Wildcat, and Paul Zolbrod. My favorite genres of movies are foreign films, documentary, drama, realistic fiction, and comedy. The television character I simply adore is Cameron Tucker from the show Modern Family. My favorite music and instrument is alternative music and drums. My favorite place is anywhere in Montana. The one word to best describe me would be personable.

My favorite quote is, "You just do not obtain information, you have to live, and experience what you ask for in order to truly understand." ~Emma H. Yazzie

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Scott Herbner



Scott Hebner, NEPA Specialist/Environmental Protection Specialist, Environment and Lands Division, Albuquerque Area Office.

Scott comes to the Albuquerque Area Office from the Midwest Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, located near Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was an Environmental Protection Specialist there as well, working on NEPA Compliance and Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessments for Fee-to-Trust acquisitions for tribes. Scott also has previous experience working as a Natural Resource Specialist for the National Park Service on Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake behind the Grand Coulee Dam.

Scott applied for the job at Reclamation's Albuquerque Area Office because he was looking for a change in subject matter and a chance to work on a larger variety of issues.

Scott's girlfriend, Paula, is a native New Mexican, from Isleta Pueblo. She currently works for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Minnesota and hopes to find a job in the Albuquerque area at some point.

Scott's hobbies include day hiking, perusing estate sales, and going to the movies.

####

Tina Villegas



Tina, a native of Albuquerque, came to Reclamation from the Social Security Administration's Teleservice Center on Lead Avenue, where she worked for the past six years; the last year as the director's secretary.

Tina decided to apply for our executive assistant job. She was looking for a change and there wasn't much opportunity at the Social Security Administration. "So far I love it here and am very happy. It is interesting trying to learn everything and figure out how Reclamation works."

Tina is happily married, and together with her husband, Ramon, is raising their daughter, Trinity, who is 13.

Tina's hobbies include crafting, fishing, camping, and traveling. She is also obsessed with the Walking Dead and Hello Kitty.



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In Transition

Gerald Kasman (GP Region)



Gerald Kasman was born in Sacramento, Calif., on June 2, 1925, the son of Henry Kasman and Flora (Graue) Kasman. Gerry passed away on March 24, 2015, in Billings.

The family moved to Missouri in 1929 and started farming there in 1930. Gerry's schooling began in the one-room, one-teacher, all-eight-grades Science Hill School, ¼ mile east of the farm. Loss of the farm in 1932 led to a move to Milo, Mo. Henry later found work in Montana in 1933. The family followed in 1934 — a rail trip long remembered by the boys. After a brief stay in California, they all moved back to Helena — a city that was to be HOME for many years.

Gerry graduated from Helena High School in 1942 and then entered Montana State University in Bozeman. As with so many others, military service entered the picture, and Private Gerald Kasman began Army Air Force training late in 1943. He flew light, then heavy bombers (all in Kansas and Texas) leaving the service as a B-29 pilot

late in 1945. Going back to Bozeman in 1946, it soon became apparent that the job market would be crowded with veterans, and an opening with a Mountain Bell construction crew was gratefully accepted. This led to retirement after somewhat over 36 years and encompassed work in Baker, Red Lodge, and Great Falls, and included perhaps the most important meeting of his life when he met Bess. He was working on her telephone system at the Bureau of Reclamation in Billings. The mutual attraction grew into marriage on June 18, 1955 and they celebrated 51 GREAT years together in 2006, a stretch of time interrupted by Bess' passing on Oct. 25 of that year.

Gerry and Bess attended many Graue family reunions in Missouri over the years. They hosted one in Red Lodge in 1994. Early in September 2007, due to failing health, Gerry attended his final reunion with his nephews, Craig and Doug.

One association brought Bess and Gerry many new friends and a rich store of memories. In January of 1960, he joined the Red Lodge Rotary Club and began a membership, in three clubs, that spanned 48 years. Once they got "hooked" on attending Rotary District Conferences, they attended 35 in Montana. Gerry served as District Governor for Rotary for the State of Montana in the 1973-74 year. Bess accompanied him on his visits to all 29 clubs. They also attended eight International Conventions of Rotary, including two in Canada and two in Australia.

Gerry was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Bess, and his brother, Marion. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Ruby Lee Kasman of Helena, Montana, and by his two nephews; Craig Kasman of Seattle, Washington and Doug Kasman of Friday Harbor, Washington.

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Tom Strain to Retire



On March 31, 2015, Tom Strain, Geologist with the Western Colorado Area Office in Durango, Colo. will retire. Tom started working for the federal government in 1971 as a surveyor aide; he was appointed to the position for six months, but they finished the job in nine days! From 1973 to 1979, Tom served in the U.S. Navy as a nuclear trained electrician's mate on board the USS Drum, a nuclear fast attack submarine. In 1985, Tom started working for the Bureau of Reclamation in the Uinta Basin Construction Office. Since then, he has worked in the Bonneville Construction Office, Durango Projects Office, Animas-La Plata (ALP) Construction Office, and most recently the Western Colorado Area Office, starting in 2006.

During his time with Reclamation, Tom has worked on many projects and studies, some of the most memorable include: constructing the North Fork Siphon and Steinaker Dam Safety Evaluation of Existing Dam Program; performing preconstruction geologic studies on Monks Hollow damsite, Diamond Fork Pipeline, and the ALP Project; documenting conditions during low and high flow testing in the San Juan River, reinforcing the Dolores River bank at Paradox; mapping foundations and monitoring construction activities for the ALP Project; and performing dam and facility inspections and drilling and geologic studies for the WCAO.

During retirement, Tom plans to remodel his house, build a shop, cruise through the Panama Canal, and enjoy his hobbies – silversmithing, camping, and rock collecting and lapidary work. Congrats Tom!

#####

Harl Noble



On Friday, March 20, Harl Noble passed away peacefully into the loving arms of his Savior, with his wife and children at his side.

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He was born on May 11, 1930 to Ira Elias Noble, Jr and Vera LaVene Jorgensen in Logan, Utah and was raised nearby in Smithfield. He attended public schools in Smithfield and Richmond, graduating from North Cache High School in 1948. Loving mathematics, he attended Utah State Agricultural College.

(USU), graduating the Spring of 1954 in Civil Engineering. His schooling was interrupted by a call to serve His Country in the [Korean War](#) 1950-1952 where he served in the [Army](#). He married his "first crush", Kathleen Anderson, in the Logan Temple on December 19, 1952. Upon completion of college, he began his career in the Bridge Division of the Los Angeles County Roads Department. After changing jobs and moving back to Utah, he went to work for the US Bureau of Reclamation where he retired in 1988 as the Regional Planning officer working on many water projects in Utah and surrounding states.

Harl had a strong testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ and served in many capacities in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints including, counselor in bishopric, stake high councilor, high priest group leader, temple worker and his favorite - LDS Missionary serving in the Laie Hawaii Temple with his beloved wife.

Harl loved observing nature, hiking, long walks and good music, but most of all he enjoyed being around his family and any activities that brought them together.

He is survived by his loving wife, Kathleen; siblings Wayne Noble, Mavis (Donn) Goode, Lois Pettingill; five children, DeAnn (Dean) Foust, Richard (Linda) Noble, Karen (Rick) Shelton, Brian (Tana) Noble, Gaylynn (Darin) Hammond; 24 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings Myrvin, Gerald, NaDene, Gladys, and Don "J."

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What Is the Media Saying About Reclamation This Week?

[Z-Replace Main Step Up Transformer and ISO Bus at Glen Canyon Power Plant](#)

[Unpacking snowpack](#)

[Warm and dry conditions greet those trying to solve Utah's water woes](#)

[Tipton, senators urge opening of Lake Nighthorse](#)

[Tackle the West's drought with market-driven solutions](#)

[Should the Bureau of Reclamation be abolished?](#)

[Silver City Mayor: Town Divided Over Gila River Diversion Project](#)

[A good relationship to keep](#)

[Public invited to USU's Quinney College of Natural Resources Week](#)

[Brent Rhees Named Regional Director for Bureau of Reclamation](#)

[Urban water past: Crumbling infrastructure needs new funding](#)



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[A river runs dry: Water and the future of Washington County](#)

[A look at rural water projects funded by the US Bureau of Reclamation](#)

[Former federal water manager proposes tearing down Glen Canyon Dam](#)

[Western Drought Enlarges 'Bathtub' Ring Around Lake Powell](#)

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Canon Largo Morning by Robert Stump

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Reclamation Trivia

Here's this week's set of questions:

1. Brent holds a bachelor's degree in _____ from Utah State University and is a registered _____ in the State of Utah.
2. Echo Dam, part of the _____, is a zoned earthfill structure located about six miles north of _____, Utah.
3. The concept of conducting an Active Shooter tabletop exercise was spawned following an All-Employees Meeting in which the training video developed by the City of Houston titled, " _____ " was shown.



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Last week, We asked,

1. In 1830, [Michael Faraday of England](#) discovered that when a coil of wire was moved near a magnet, the magnet induced a current of electricity in the wire.
2. The pumping plant is located on the [San Juan Lateral](#) in west central New Mexico, approximately 10 miles north of Gallup. The contract was awarded to Moltz Constructors, Inc. on April 1, 2014, for [\\$19.6 million](#).
3. These rainstorms carried over [1,200 kilo tons of sand](#) into the Grand Canyon via the Paria River below Glen Canyon Dam.

Last winner was – [Betty Reed – Upper Colorado Regional Office](#)

Please use this [link to send your answers](#). To be fair we will draw names from the winners and one person will receive a prize. We will reach into the prize bin for something suitable for the winner...as long as supplies last.

[Return to UC Today](#)



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