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WCD-RChristianson
WTR-4.13

FEB 19 2013

Mr. Scott Verhines, PE
State Engineer
Office of the State Engineer
State of New Mexico
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Subject: Proposed Operating Plan for Navajo Reservoir, Navajo Unit, Colorado River Storage Project, Colorado and New Mexico

Dear Mr. Verhines:

Public Law 87-483, Section 11, directs the Bureau of Reclamation to apportion shortages to entitled users of Navajo Reservoir storage water, on a pro-rata basis, in the event shortages are anticipated. Current conditions (inflow forecast and reservoir content) indicate that a shortage is a possibility this year. Notwithstanding the direction provided in §11, a group of ten water users has developed an agreement among themselves as to how they will allocate the water supply in a shortage situation ("Recommendations for San Juan River Operations and Administration for 2013-2016, July 2, 2012").

Because Reclamation has no ability to control or influence agreements among water users, and because this agreement among the users will not cause Reclamation to undertake any change in its operations from how we would operate under §11, the recommendations fall within our anticipated operating plans for 2013 through 2016. We also anticipate that operations under §11 will not cause releases to fall below the minimum allowable release rate from Navajo Dam.

We have received endorsement letters from the following Navajo Unit contractors and subcontractors, all endorsing this same plan:

Arizona Public Service Company
BHP Navajo Coal Company
Hammond Conservancy District
Jicarilla Apache Nation
Navajo Nation
Public Service Company of New Mexico

In addition, we have received similar letters of endorsement from the following agencies:

Bloomfield Irrigation District
City of Farmington
Farmers Mutual Ditch
Jewett Valley Ditch

Conformed by _____
Updated by _____
Coded by _____
Filed by _____

Conformed by JP
Updated by _____
Coded by _____
Filed by _____

While Reclamation recognizes these recommendations as a temporary solution to providing some means of water rights administration, we encourage the State Engineer to continue proceeding towards promulgation of rules and regulations for administering water rights within the San Juan River Basin in New Mexico. Also, please be advised that Reclamation's acknowledgement of these recommendations does not constitute endorsement of any disclaimers included in any parties' endorsement letter.

I offer my thanks to you and staff members of the Office of the State Engineer and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission who helped facilitate the development of these recommendations.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ryan Christianson of our Western Colorado Area Office at 970-385-6590, or by email at rchristianson@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

ACTING FOR

BRENT RHEES

Larry Walkoviak
Regional Director

cc: Mr. Michael Howe ✓
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Navajo Indian Irrigation Project
304 North Auburn, Suite B
Farmington, NM 87401

Honorable Ben Shelly ✓
President
Navajo Nation
c/o Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 9000
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Honorable Alan Vaughn ✓
President
Hammond Conservancy District
790 Road 4990
Bloomfield, NM 87413

Mr. Robert Lotts ✓
Arizona Public Service Company
P.O. Box 53999 MS-9424
Phoenix, AZ 85072-3999

Mr. David Campbell ✓
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001

Honorable Ty Vicenti ✓
President
Jicarilla Apache Nation
P.O. Box 709
Dulce, NM 87528

Mr. Mike Greene ✓
Public Service Company of New Mexico
2401 Aztec N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Mr. Pat Risner ✓
Vice President
BHP Navajo Coal Company
300 West Arrington, Suite 200
Farmington, NM 87401

Mr. Robert Lotts
 Arizona Public Service Company
 P.O. Box 53999 MS 9424
 Phoenix, AZ 85072-3999

Mr. Pat Risner
 Vice President
 BHP Navajo Coal Company
 300 West Arrington, Suite 200
 Farmington, NM 87401

Mr. James Rogers
 Jewett Valley Water District
 P.O. Box 91
 Waterflow, NM 87421

Mr. Lawrence Stock
 Farmers Mutual Ditch
 P.O. Box 467
 Kirtland, NM 87417

Honorable Tammy Roberts
 Mayor
 City of Farmington
 800 Municipal Drive
 Farmington, NM 87401

Mr. Blain Watson
 New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
 100 Gossett Drive, Suite A
 Aztec, NM 87410

Mr. Kevin Flanigan
 New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
 P.O. Box 25102
 Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

Mr. Tsosie Lewis
 CEO
 Navajo Agricultural Products Industry
 P.O. Drawer 1318
 Farmington, NM 87499

Mr. Jason John
 Navajo Nation
 Water Management Branch
 P.O. Drawer 678
 Fort Defiance, AZ 86504

Mr. Martin Duncan
 San Juan River Dineh Water Users Inc.
 P.O. Box 3688
 Shiprock, NM 87420

Carroll Crawford
 Bloomfield Irrigation District
 P.O. Box 606
 Bloomfield, NM 87413

bc: WCG-~~E~~Wamer, WCD-R~~C~~Christianson, WCD-S~~B~~Behery

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