



# Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Newsletter

3rd Quarter, March 2020

## NGWSP Work Continues – Safety and Health Paramount

By Pat Page, P.E., Bureau of Reclamation

The health and safety of our employees, partners and the communities we serve is Reclamation’s highest priority. As this pandemic continues its assault on the world, the country and the Navajo Nation, we are taking every precaution to protect the safety and health of our staff, contractors, and local communities. Our goal is to do our part to slow the spread of the virus while continuing important NGWSP construction to provide a clean, reliable water supply for the Navajo Nation, the City of Gallup, and the Jicarilla Apache Nation. Continuing construction on the project is deemed essential in the public health orders from both New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham and Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez’s. However, we’ve taken steps to make sure workers maintain appropriate social distancing while on the job—including keeping at least 6 feet between each other and limiting gatherings to no more than 5 people in any one area. In addition, Reclamation and contractor employees are wearing masks to further prevent the spread of the virus. We are continuously monitoring the situation and will take any actions necessary keep our staff, contractors and the public safe.



### Faces of NGWSP

My name is Jim Magnuson and I am the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Operations Manager for Navajo Tribal Utility Authority. NTUA was established on January 22, 1959, to address the absence of utilities on the Navajo Nation. NTUA has grown into a thriving tribally owned enterprise delivering a portfolio of services, which has continuously served the Navajo people for more than 61 years. NTUA is purposed for all utility operations on the Nation, including operation and maintenance, electrical distribution and transmission, natural gas, water, wastewater, and power generation services, including solar, for the Navajo people at a low and reasonable cost. My role with NTUA is twofold: first, to facilitate communication and cooperation between Reclamation and NTUA in all stages of the Project – planning and construction through the O&M stages of the Project; second, to establish and develop a NTUA operational structure, a NGWSP Division, for assuming all NGWSP O&M responsibilities. The NGWSP provides a long-term water source to the eastern portions of the Navajo Nation with the capacity for allowing economic development in many water source poor areas.



Mural on abandoned building in Shiprock New Mexico. Photo by Mark Gray

## NGWSP Construction Update

### Cutter Lateral

- Reach 22b is nearly finished with construction completion expected by the end of April.
- Reach 21 and the Cutter Lateral Water Treatment Plant is more than 70% complete now, with completion and startup with the first water deliveries to the Cutter Lateral anticipated in the late summer to early fall 2020-time frame.
- Reaches 26.1 and 26.2 are more than 95% complete with completion anticipated in May.

- Reach 26.3 construction is underway with completion anticipated early summer 2020.

### San Juan Lateral

- Reach 27.9 was completed this past January. Construction on Reach 27.10 is expected to begin in June.
- Block 9-11 is more than 95% complete with completion expected in June.
- Block 4c-8 construction started in mid-January 2020 with completion slated for winter 2022.



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





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## Cutter Lateral Reach 21 Water Treatment Plant

By Barbara Crockett, P.E., CH2M

The Cutter Lateral Reach 21 Water Treatment Plant construction is nearing completion and is scheduled to begin delivering safe, clean drinking water to communities in the eastern portion of the Navajo Reservation and the southwestern corner of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation later this year. The water treatment process is designed to remove inorganic, organic, and microbial contaminants in accordance with Federal Safe Drinking Water Act regulations for the protection of public health.



Looking east, CLWTP construction continues in early March 2020

Water conveyed from Navajo Reservoir to Cutter Reservoir near Bloomfield, New Mexico will be pumped through a series of 2 pumping plants to the treatment plant, where it will be initially treated by clarification and filtration.

This treatment removes small particles and microorganisms before it is disinfected and distributed to the receiving communities by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority. The small particles and microorganisms that are removed, referred to as “solids,” will be trucked to a nearby landfill to be disposed of properly. The new water treatment plant includes a process operation building, a control room, administrative offices, a laboratory, and maintenance facilities. The state-of-the-art treatment plant has been designed to treat 3.5 million gallons per day initially (Phase 1) and can be expanded to 5.4 million gallons per day to meet future demands (Phase 2). Water from the project will be used for municipal, industrial, and domestic purposes.

## Project Will Soon Be Delivering Much-Needed Water

By Joe Savage, Surface Water Rule Administrator, New Mexico Environment Department

No one needs to be reminded that water is essential for life. Water in the Four Corners region is in short supply for many communities and available water is often of poor quality.

In order to mitigate water contamination and scarcity, the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project was conceived, and a significant portion of the project, the Cutter Lateral, is near completion. Multiple State and federal agencies are involved with this massive Project. The Project includes two large surface water treatment plants and two long transmission lines (laterals) to bring much-needed potable water to communities in the Four Corners region. The Cutter Lateral will soon deliver potable water to communities in San Juan, Sandoval, and Rio Arriba Counties. The San Juan Lateral farther to the west is in late stages of the design and construction phase.



Looking to the south over Cutter Reservoir

Project water in the Cutter Lateral originates in the Cutter Reservoir and the San Juan River Basin. The water will be filtered to remove sediment, microorganisms, and organic matter. To ensure that project water is safe in all aspects, extensive monitoring will be continually conducted. The water will be tested for minerals, contaminants related to health, and microorganisms. If any contaminant exceeds acceptable levels, everyone will be notified, the laterals will be flushed, and corrections will be made to return the water to safe standards.



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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