



Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Newsletter

1st Quarter, October 2019

Latest Construction Contract Awarded on NGWSP

By Hubert "Chico" Quintana - Bureau of Reclamation

On September 12, 2019, the Bureau of Reclamation awarded the latest section of the NGWSP, Block 4C-8, to Oscar Renda Contracting, Inc., of Roanoke, Texas, for \$83.7 million. This section of the project will include construction of nearly 30 miles of 48-inch and 42-inch diameter pipeline spanning from the Navajo communities of Little Water to Naschitti, New Mexico.



The green line shows the nearly 30 miles of pipeline that will be constructed.

“This award continues our important work to develop and modernize water infrastructure, honor the Department’s federal Indian trust responsibility and strengthen partnerships with tribal and local communities,” said Department of the Interior Secretary David Bernhardt. Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman added, “Completing the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project is a key priority for Reclamation as we work to improve water supplies for tribal and rural communities.”

“The Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project will be trans-formative for communities in the Navajo Nation, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, and Gallup. Over the last decade, I’ve been proud to fight for the major federal investments necessary to finally deliver long-term clean drinking water supplies to thousands of families throughout northwestern New Mexico,” said Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM). “The construction of this major project is also creating jobs and promoting economic development throughout the

region. I will continue working to uphold the federal commitments in the historic Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Agreement and ensure that our communities in Indian Country have the resources they need to thrive.”

Work under this contract will begin in January 2020 and is expected to last for approximately 2 years. Construction will be visible from U.S. Highway 491.

Those interested in seeking employment opportunities on the project with ORC and its subcontractors can apply through the New Mexico Workforce Connection offices in Farmington (505) 327-6126 (600 W Arrington St, Farmington, NM 87401) or Gallup (505) 863-8181 (2918 E Hwy 66, Gallup, NM 87301). Alternatively, applicants can apply through the Navajo Nation Department of Workforce Development Workforce Centers (928) 871-7707 (Tribal Hill Drive Building # FA-2754, Window Rock, AZ 86515).



Faces of NGWSP

My name is Brent Esplin, and I’m the Bureau of Reclamation’s Regional Director for Interior Region 7 – the Upper Colorado Basin. In Reclamation, we take our mission seriously—to manage, develop and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American Public. I’m excited for the progress being made on the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project and the reliable water infrastructure it is bringing to the Navajo Nation and northeast New Mexico.

I’m just over two months into my assignment as Reclamation’s Regional Director. In those two months, along with the time I previously spent as Deputy Regional Director, I’ve been impressed with the dedication, professionalism and determination of our employees and partners. Perhaps nowhere is the Reclamation can-do attitude more prominent than in this region. Much of that is due to the positive

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If you would like to learn more about the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, you can visit our website at <https://www.usbr.gov/uc/rm/navajo/nav-gallup/>.

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From front

working relationships we enjoy with our partners—tribal governments and organizations, states, cities, water users and others, and I'm committed to maintaining and strengthening those relationships.

As the cornerstone of the Navajo Nation San Juan River in New Mexico Water Rights Settlement Agreement, the NGWSP is a top Reclamation and Department of the Interior priority as part of the federal government's American Indian trust responsibilities—including to the Navajo Nation and Jicarilla Apache Nation that this water supply project will serve.

I look forward to continued

progress and our ongoing partnerships on the project. I'm proud of the work being done to bring clean, reliable water to tribal communities and northeastern

New Mexico. And, I'm excited for the system to begin delivering water; something we anticipate on the Cutter Lateral as early as next summer.

Nov. 12 **491 Chapters Group** will meet Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 10 a.m. at Rock Springs Chapter House

Dec. 18 **BBN9 Cutter Lateral Group** will meet Wednesday Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. at White Horse Lake Chapter House

Nov. 13 **Cutter Lateral OM&R Transfer Contract Negotiation Meeting** will meet Thursday, Nov. 13 at 10 a.m. at NTUA Headquarters in Fort Defiance, AZ

Jan. 30 **NGWSP Project Construction Committee** will meet Thursday Jan. 30 at 9 a.m. at the El Morro Events Center in Gallup

Navajo-Gallup on the World Stage

By Pat Page, Bureau of Reclamation



NGWSP Delegation at World Water Week (L-R): David Palumbo, Bureau of Reclamation; Chris Banet, Bureau of Indian Affairs; Kristine Smith, Bureau of Reclamation; Jason John, Navajo Nation; Tracy Goodluck, Dept of the Interior; Pat Page, Bureau of Reclamation

Representatives from the Department of the Interior and the Navajo Nation recently traveled to Sweden to participate in the Stockholm International Water Institutes's World Water Week. The annual event, which attracted over 4,000 participants from 138 countries was held August 25-30, 2019. The Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project was the subject of one of the 277 sessions at the conference. The NGWSP delegation presented an overview of Indian Water Rights Settlements in general, and the Navajo-San Juan NM Settlement in particular, with a focus on the NGWSP. The theme for this year's conference was "Water for Society: Including All" and many sessions focused on water issues that indigenous people throughout the world are facing. It was surprising to many attendees to learn that Native Americans in the United States are confronted with similar water access and shortage issues. It was notable however that several of those that attended the NGWSP presentation expressed admiration and praise for the great progress that has been made on the project that, as soon as 2020, will bring clean, wet water to portions of the Navajo and Jicarilla Apache Reservations. The trip was sponsored by Reclamation's Native American and International Affairs Program.

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