

## John Whipple

---

**From:** utton  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 02, 2004 9:05 PM  
**To:** jwhipple  
**Subject:** ALP

### Local News

---

**A-LP construction costs detailed**  
By Jim Snyder/The Daily Times  
Sep 2, 2004, 11:55 pm

[Email this article](#)  
[Printer friendly page](#)

FARMINGTON — The Animas-La Plata Project is currently \$7 million below its \$500 million budget, said Barry Longwell, a Bureau of Reclamation deputy project construction engineer for the project.

Those figures did not include the Durango Pumping Plant or the tunnel excavation, he said during Wednesday's San Juan Water Commission meeting in Farmington.

Local and state media have been reporting the project was over budget when it was actually under budget, commission Executive Director Randy Kirkpatrick added during the 40-minute meeting.

Kirkpatrick did not say what the project would cost the commission.

The meeting was also attended by Chairman Mark Duncan, representing; Vice Chairman Jim Dunlap, representing the San Juan Rural Domestic Water Users Association; Cy Cooper, representing the city of Farmington; Jerry Hanhardt, representing the city of Aztec and John Eckley, alternate representative for the city of Bloomfield.

Longwell gave a short Powerpoint presentation on the breakdown of contract costs for the Ridges Basin Dam and the Durango Pumping Plant before the meeting ended.

Here are his breakdowns:

- Ridges Basin Dam 2003 construction status as of July: A \$2.3 million contract was awarded in September 2003 and 80 percent of the project is complete although 100 percent of the time to finish it has elapsed. The completion date was set for February. Modifications to the contract have given it a new value of \$4.3 million. Work includes right abutment excavation and water and power infrastructure.

- Ridges Basin Dam foundation, roads and drop structure construction status as of July: A \$17.8 million contract was awarded in October 2003, with 61 percent of the project completed while 58 percent of the time allotted has passed. The completion date is set for February 2005. Modifications to the contract have given it a new value of \$20.3 million.

- Ridges Basin Dam materials processing plant construction status as of July: A \$10.7 million contract was awarded in July. A residual value of \$2.1 million for plant equipment will be collected from a future contract leaving the contract with a net value of \$8.6 million.

Fifty-five percent of the work is completed while 5 percent of the allotted time has elapsed. The completion date is set for November. Work includes final design, fabrication, delivery and unloading of material to be used for the dam.

- Ridges Basin Dam outlet works tunnel excavation construction status as of July: A contract for an undetermined amount is expected to be awarded this month. Work will include excavating the tunnel for outlet works through the left abutment of the dam.

- Durango Pumping Plant Stage 1 construction status as of June: A \$5.9 million contract was awarded with 82 percent of the work having been completed while 100 percent of the allotted time has passed. The contract completion date was April. A

time extension is under consideration to allow for September flooding and completing of a fish bypass. Modifications to the contract have given it a new value of \$6.1 million.

- Durango Pumping Plant Stage 2 construction status as of August: A \$51.5 million net-award amount contract will be awarded in August. The contract completion date would be April 2009. Work includes completion of the Durango Pumping Plant and portion of the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit.

Jim Snyder: jsnyder@daily-times.com

---

This email has been scanned by the MessageLabs Email Security System.  
For more information please visit <http://www.messagelabs.com/email>

---



Transmitted by email  
ON 3-17-04

San Juan-3  
ALP

**STATEMENT OF  
JOHN R. D'ANTONIO, JR., STATE ENGINEER OF NEW MEXICO  
TO  
THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT  
ON  
THE ANIMAS-LA PLATA PROJECT**

**MARCH 24, 2004**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony at this hearing on the Animas-La Plata Project. New Mexico has for many years supported an Animas-La Plata Project that would provide storage of Animas River flows to meet the needs of water users in New Mexico. Also, New Mexico has supported the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 1988 as well as amendments to the Act enacted by the Congress in 2000.

It is very important, not only to New Mexico water users but to all water users of the San Juan River system, that storage of Animas River flows be provided to make the water supply available from the San Juan River system usable for development of the water apportioned to the States of Colorado and New Mexico by the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact. Further, the storage and regulation of Animas River flows in concert with the regulation afforded by Navajo Reservoir on the main stem of the San Juan River above the mouth of the Animas River will enhance the success of the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program to achieve its goals to conserve endangered fish species and to proceed with water development in the basin. An example of current development of the basin water supply is the proposed Navajo-Gallup Municipal Water

Supply Project in New Mexico, currently under consideration, which is much needed to provide domestic water supplies to Navajo Indian communities and to the City of Gallup, New Mexico.

It is our understanding that construction of the Animas-La Plata Project facilities is currently progressing satisfactorily. I urge that funding be provided up to the full capability of the Bureau of Reclamation in order that the project be completed as soon as is reasonably possible. Concern has arisen over the recent release of the revised cost estimate for the project which resulted in a cost increase estimated to be \$160 million.

The local entities are very concerned that this cost increase will affect their timely re-payment of project costs to complete the project works. I believe that Reclamation should carefully review the causes of the increase looking towards alleviating any increase in the repayment of project costs.



THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI  
 ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA  
 PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO  
 CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI  
 MITCH MCCONNELL, KENTUCKY  
 CONRAD BURNS, MONTANA  
 RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA  
 JEFF SESSIONS, ALABAMA  
 F. BENNETT, UTAH  
 BLAKE FRANKLIN, COLORADO  
 LARRY CRAIG, IDAHO  
 KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, TEXAS  
 MIKE DEWINE, OHIO  
 SAM BROWNBACK, KANSAS

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA  
 DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII  
 ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA  
 PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT  
 TOM HARKIN, IOWA  
 BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND  
 HARRY REID, NEVADA  
 HERB KOHL, WISCONSIN  
 PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON  
 BYRON L. DORGAN, NORTH DAKOTA  
 DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA  
 RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS  
 TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA  
 MARY L. LANDRIEU, LOUISIANA

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025  
 www.senate.gov/appropriations

JAMES W. MORHARD, STAFF DIRECTOR  
 TERENCE E. SAUVAIN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 8, 2004

*LA Plata*  
*OM*  
*Response!*  
*Coordinator*  
*Esther*  
*alvarez*  
*DL*  
*John*  
*Rand*

Mr. John D'Antonio  
 New Mexico State Engineer  
 P.O. Box 25102  
 Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102

Dear Mr. D'Antonio:


I am writing to request that you submit written testimony for a hearing of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development at 10:00 am on Wednesday, March 24, 2004 in the Senate Dirksen Office Building room 124, concerning the Animas La Plata Project.

I ask that you address your specific involvement with the project, what effects the project will have (positive and negative) with respect to water management and availability in New Mexico, and your impression of the progress and processes of the project to date.

Please provide an electronic copy of your testimony to Erin McHale, of the subcommittee staff, at erin\_mchale@appro.senate.gov one week prior to the hearing. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact Kris Schafer of my staff at 202-224-4046.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Pete V. Domenici  
 Chairman, Subcommittee on  
 Energy and Water Development

PVD:em

*Kris - Schafer*

*Domenici - Senate*  
*Gov*  
 OSE-0832





\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\* ERROR TX REPORT \*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

TX FUNCTION WAS NOT COMPLETED

TX/RX NO	2457	915056225701
CONNECTION TEL		
CONNECTION ID		
ST. TIME	03/08 09:17	
USAGE T	00'00	
PGS. SENT	0	
RESULT	NG	#018



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER

John R. D'Antonio, Jr.  
State Engineer

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 25102  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102  
Telephone: (505) 827-6150  
Fax: (505) 827-3887

TELEFAX TRANSMISSION SHEET

DATE: 3/8/04  
 TO: Commissioner White  
 FAX #: 622-5701  
 FROM: Justo Chavez - OSE Public Information Office

- MESSAGE:  CALL UPON RECEIPT & REVIEW  FOR YOUR FILES  
 FOR YOUR INFORMATION  PURSUANT TO YOUR REQUEST  
 PER OUR CONVERSATION  FOR YOUR APPROVAL  
 FOR YOUR COMMENTS  FOR DISCUSSION  
 FOR HANDLING  FOR DISTRIBUTION

NUMBER OF PAGES (Including Cover Page): 3

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Subcommittee on  
Energy and Water  
Development

Fax Data Sheet

127 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-7260

Date: 3/8/04

Time: 12:30

To: John D. Antonio

Fax No.: 505-827-8060

From: Erin McHale

Phone No.: 202-224-0352

Number of pages including this sheet: 2

Message: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# FAX

*John  
San Juan-3  
ALP*



## BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

WESTERN COLORADO AREA OFFICE

2704 Compass Drive, Suite 100

Grand Junction, CO 81506

970-248-0600

Date: 7/31/03

To: PHIL MUTZ

Fax #: (505) 827-6188

Phone #:

From: Carol DeAngelis

Fax #: 970-248-0601

Phone #: 970-248-0690

Comments: FOR YOUR INFORMATION -  
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS - PLEASE  
CALL ME @ 970-248-0690

Total Pages Including Cover Sheet: 6





## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Regional Office  
125 South State Street, Room 6107  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1102

JUL 31 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UC-100

Mr. Harold Cuthair, Acting Chairman  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe  
PO Box 248  
Towaoc CO 81334

**Subject: Updated Project Construction Cost Estimate - Animas-La Plata Project, Colorado and New Mexico**

Dear Chairman Cuthair:

The construction cost estimate for the Animas-La Plata Project was developed in 1999 for inclusion in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS). This year Reclamation undertook a review and update of the construction cost estimate. This process has identified a substantial increase in the estimated construction cost. In light of the increase, we would like to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the issues, including the revised cost estimate for this important project. We view these meetings as an opportunity to share our findings, to listen to your views, and to find solutions to keep this project on track.

The new construction cost estimate, at the January 2003 price level, is \$500 million. This is an increase of \$162.1 million over the FSEIS construction cost estimate, as updated for inflation. The construction cost estimate displayed in the 2004 Budget Justification documents was \$337.9 million at the October 2003 price level. These cost estimates do not include the \$40 million Resource Fund that is being funded through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Identification of the increase prompted Reclamation to closely scrutinize the factors that contributed to the increase, as we discuss below.

Preparation of the FSEIS used readily available information provided in previous environmental compliance documents and planning reports on the project. These documents included the initial Final Environmental Statement and Definite Plan Report of July 1980 and a Supplement to the Final Environmental Statement of 1996. The FSEIS included an estimate of the costs of the project, prepared under a contract with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe by your consultant engineering sub-contractor, that also used previous design efforts and readily available site design data. The primary focus in the preparation of the FSEIS was to assure that Reclamation complied with all environmental laws. As a result, significant efforts were expended on quantifying the environmental impacts of various alternatives, but less effort was devoted at that time to verifying construction costs contained in the construction cost estimate.

### **Updated Cost Estimate:**

The project construction cost estimate was recently updated by using all of the currently best available information, including final designs on two of the major project features and the major utility relocations; experience from negotiations on several project construction contracts; post 9-11-01 project security measures in response to terrorist concerns; and a firm scope for the required cultural resource mitigation efforts. Our objective in updating the construction cost estimate was to ensure that all appropriate costs are included and contingencies projected to provide a reliable estimate of what the project will cost to construct.

### **Factors Influencing Cost Estimates:**

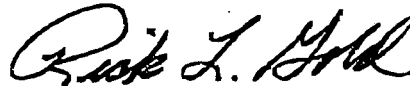
Several factors contributed to the increase in the project construction cost estimate and are summarized below. The percentage of increase attributable to each factor is provided only to demonstrate its relative value to the overall cost increase. Several factors are interrelated within the construction cost estimate.

1. Unknown conditions at time of FSEIS estimate - Final design work and construction scheduling on Ridges Basin Dam, the Durango Pumping Plant, and the natural gas pipeline relocations revealed certain conditions that were not known at the time of the preparation of the FSEIS construction cost estimate. In addition, post 9-11-01 security measures, both during and after construction, were not anticipated in the FSEIS construction cost estimate. Overall, unknown conditions represent 19% of the increase to the construction costs.
2. Deficiencies and omissions in the FSEIS design and estimates - In several instances, the FSEIS construction cost estimate under-estimated certain costs. In addition, some typical and customary project cost items were omitted in the FSEIS construction cost estimate. Overall, this factor represents 44% of the increase to the construction costs.
3. Negotiations of construction contracts - The application of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638) provides a sole source tribal contractor the opportunity to accomplish the construction functions on the project. Negotiations with that contractor resulted in awarding contracts that are above the independent government cost estimate. Assuming a similar outcome on contracts yet to be awarded, this represents 24% of the increase to the construction costs.
4. Assistance to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe - The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act provides opportunities for the Colorado Ute Tribes to succeed at performing the design and construction functions on the project. Effort has been expended in assisting the Tribe in developing their capabilities in contract administration, project management, and design reviews. This represents 2% of the increase to the construction costs.

5. Cultural resources costs - Cultural resource mitigation efforts are very difficult to estimate. The Ridges Basin Reservoir area has a high concentration of cultural resource sites that will be affected by project construction and require mitigation. A detailed mitigation plan, developed in February 2002, resulted in substantial additional cultural resource mitigation requirements. This represents 5% of the increase to the construction costs.
6. Project Completion Schedule - With the substantial increase in the projected construction costs, it may be unrealistic to expect to achieve the full appropriations necessary to complete the project within the currently authorized 5-year window, and an extension of the construction completion schedule may be necessary. The construction management cost of extending the completion schedule to Fiscal Year 2009 represents 6% of the increase to the construction costs.

We recognize the importance of explaining the reasons for the increased construction cost estimate and hope to continue working with you as we move forward to complete project construction. Please contact me, at 801-524-3600, or Pat Schumacher in our Durango office, at 970-385-6590, to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,



Rick L. Gold  
Regional Director

cc: Mr. Selwyn Whiteskunk  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe  
PO Box JJ  
Towaoc CO 81334

Mr. Ernest House, Sr.  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe  
PO Box 248  
Towaoc CO 81334-0248

Mr. Peter Ortego  
General Counsel  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe  
PO Box 128  
Towaoc CO 81334

Commissioner  
Attention: W-1000

**Similar letters to:**

**Mr. Howard Richards, Sr., Chairman  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
PO Box 737  
Ignacio CO 81137**

**cc: Mr. Scott McElroy  
Special Counsel for Water Rights  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
1007 Pearl Street, Suite 220  
Boulder CO 80302-5124**

**Mr. James M. Olguin  
Tribal Council Member  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
PO Box 737  
Ignacio CO 81337**

**Mr. Rod Kuharich, Director  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721  
Denver CO 80203**

**Mr. Joe Shirley, Jr., President  
The Navajo Nation  
PO Box 9000  
Window Rock AZ 86515**

**cc: Mr. Stanley Pollack  
Department of Justice  
The Navajo Nation  
PO Box 2010  
Window Rock AZ 86515**

**Mr. Arvin Trujillo, Director  
The Navajo Nation  
Division of Natural Resources  
PO Box 9000  
Window Rock AZ 86515**



**Mr. Johnny Francis**  
**The Navajo Nation**  
**Navajo Department of Water Resources**  
**PO Drawer 678**  
**Fort Defiance AZ 86504**

**Mr. Daniel L. Law, Executive Director**  
**Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority**  
**1580 Logan Street, Suite 620**  
**Denver CO 80203**

**Mr. Richard K. Griswold, President**  
**Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District**  
**PO Box 475**  
**Durango CO 81302-0475**

**Ms. Stella Montoya, President**  
**La Plata Conservancy District**  
**1592 Hwy 172**  
**La Plata NM 87418**

**cc: Charles Blassingame**  
**La Plata Conservancy District**  
**PO Box 305**  
**La Plata NM 87418**

**Mr. Randy Kirkpatrick, Executive Director**  
**San Juan Water Commission**  
**7450 E. Main, Suite B**  
**Farmington NM 87402**





# Animas-La Plata Project

OFFICE OF THE  
STATE ENGINEER  
A.S.D. SANTA FE, NM

## Update



Excavation operations on the inlet conduit sleeve

the inlet conduit in the future without disturbing the relocated gas pipelines. The area of disturbance of the sleeve is within the limits established in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for construction of the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit. A contract for installing the pipe sleeve was awarded to the UMUT in June 2002. Prior to the start of construction, a cultural resources ground survey was conducted and no cultural resources were identified within the construction work area. Several sites adjacent to the work area were identified and marked to ensure they would not be disturbed during construction. If any cultural resources are found below the ground surface during construction, work in that area will be halted until the mitigation of the cultural resource can be completed. Installation of the pipe sleeve is anticipated to be completed in October 2002.

### Design and Construction

The Bureau of Reclamation has the responsibility for the design and construction of Ridges Basin Dam, the Durango Pumping Plant, the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit, and other features associated with the Animas-La Plata (ALP) Project. Designs of the Ridges Basin Dam and the Durango Pumping Plant are continuing and will be completed in the near future. Conceptual design of the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit has been completed. (The inlet conduit is the pipeline from the pumping plant to the reservoir.)

Reclamation will contract with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (UMUT) and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) for construction of the project features. Much of the construction work will be performed by the UMUT's construction agency, the Weeminuche Construction Authority. The SUIT, doing business as Sky Ute Sand and Gravel, will supply some of the construction materials for the project.

A contract for excavation of the Ridges Basin Dam Outlet Works

Tunnel is anticipated to be awarded to Weeminuche Construction Authority during the first half of Fiscal Year 2003. Construction activities will commence approximately one month after the contract is awarded. This contract will include construction of a concrete-lined tunnel approximately 1,400 feet long through the left abutment of the Ridges Basin Dam. The work will also include construction of a gate chamber on the tunnel; an intake structure and conduit at the upstream end of the outlet works tunnel; and a chute and stilling basin at the downstream end of the outlet works tunnel.

### Relocation of Pipelines

Construction of the Ridges Basin Dam will require relocating gas pipelines. The relocation crosses the alignment of the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit above the conduit. Since the construction schedule requires relocating the pipelines prior to installation of the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit, a pipe sleeve is being installed to allow for the safe installation of

Final blast for construction of the Animas-La Plata Project

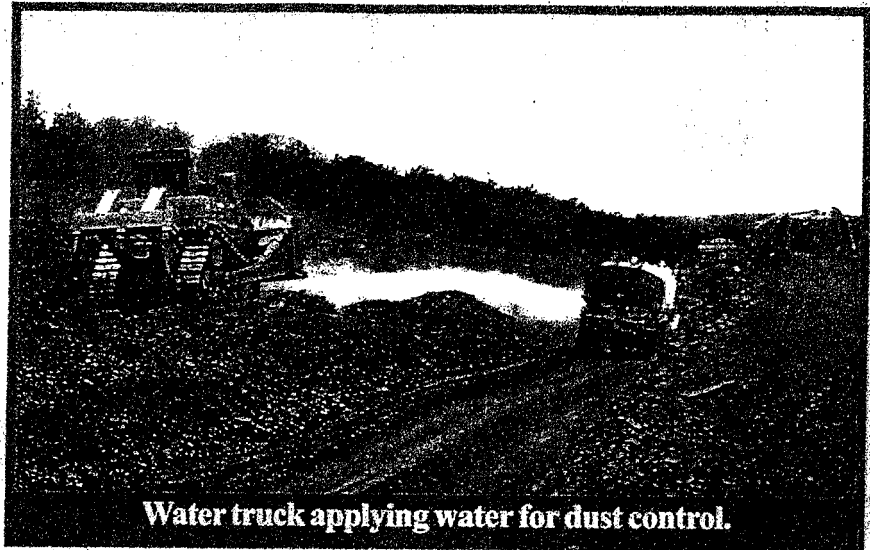


This is the second in a series of newsletters developed by the Bureau of Reclamation for the Animas-La Plata Project.

## Programmatic Agreement

In May 2002, a Programmatic Agreement (PA) regarding the ALP Project was executed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in Washington D.C. The PA is an overall agreement between Reclamation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer.

The PA was prepared under the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act and delineates the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies for the cultural resources work associated with the ALP Project.

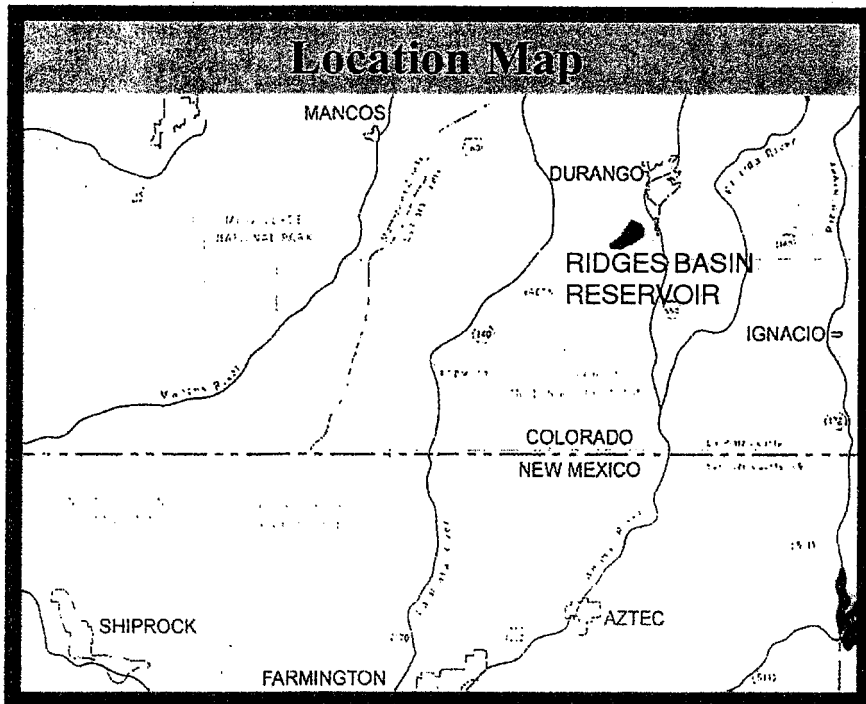


**Water truck applying water for dust control.**

## Construction Impacts on Durango

The construction activities within the next six months will have little impact on the residents of the city of Durango. County Road 211 remains open during pipe installation. The haul traffic is on a haul route adjacent and parallel to County Road 211 and does not impact the traffic on the county road.

Considerable attention is being given to dust control by placing water and dust deterrents on County Road 211 and other roads on the haul route.



## Cultural Resource Contract

A contract for cultural resource mitigation was awarded to the UMUT in April 2002. This contract is for cultural investigations on the ALP Project. Cultural resource ground surveys have been performed within the areas of the Ridges Basin Dam, the Durango Pumping Plant, and the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit. The Research Design and first year Mitigation Plan have been approved by the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer. Cultural mitigation of selected sites identified during the ground surveys will be mitigated by the UMUT.

For additional information on the Animas-La Plata Project, write or call:

**Pat Schumacher; Bureau of Reclamation; WCAO;  
835 East 2nd Avenue, Suite 300; Durango, Colorado 81301  
Telephone: 970-385-6500**

Or call our toll free telephone number that provides the date and place of public meetings relating to the Animas-La Plata Project at 1-866-720-0918. You can visit our website at: [www.uc.usbr.gov](http://www.uc.usbr.gov), select Programs & Activities, then Animas-La Plata Project.





# Animas-La Plata Project Update

OFFICE OF THE  
STATE ENGINEER  
A.S.D. SANTA FE, N.M.

San Juan - 3  
ALP



Excavation operations on the inlet conduit sleeve.

the inlet conduit in the future without disturbing the relocated gas pipelines. The area of disturbance of the sleeve is within the limits established in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for construction of the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit. A contract for installing the pipe sleeve was awarded to the UMUT in June 2002. Prior to the start of construction, a cultural resources ground survey was conducted and no cultural resources were identified within the construction work area. Several sites adjacent to the work area were identified and marked to ensure they would not be disturbed during construction. If any cultural resources are found below the ground surface during construction, work in that area will be halted until the mitigation of the cultural resource can be completed. Installation of the pipe sleeve is anticipated to be completed in October 2002.

## Design and Construction

The Bureau of Reclamation has the responsibility for the design and construction of Ridges Basin Dam, the Durango Pumping Plant, the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit, and other features associated with the Animas-La Plata (ALP) Project. Designs of the Ridges Basin Dam and the Durango Pumping Plant are continuing and will be completed in the near future. Conceptual design of the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit has been completed. (The inlet conduit is the pipeline from the pumping plant to the reservoir.)

Reclamation will contract with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (UMUT) and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) for construction of the project features. Much of the construction work will be performed by the UMUT's construction agency, the Weeminuche Construction Authority. The SUIT, doing business as Sky Ute Sand and Gravel, will supply some of the construction materials for the project.

A contract for excavation of the Ridges Basin Dam Outlet Works

Tunnel is anticipated to be awarded to Weeminuche Construction Authority during the first half of Fiscal Year 2003. Construction activities will commence approximately one month after the contract is awarded. This contract will include construction of a concrete-lined tunnel approximately 1,400 feet long through the left abutment of the Ridges Basin Dam. The work will also include construction of a gate chamber on the tunnel; an intake structure and conduit at the upstream end of the outlet works tunnel; and a chute and stilling basin at the downstream end of the outlet works tunnel.

## Relocation of Pipelines

Construction of the Ridges Basin Dam will require relocating gas pipelines. The relocation crosses the alignment of the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit above the conduit. Since the construction schedule requires relocating the pipelines prior to installation of the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit, a pipe sleeve is being installed to allow for the safe installation of

First blast for construction of the Animas-La Plata Project



This is the second in a series of newsletters designed to provide information on the Bureau of Reclamation's Animas-La Plata Project construction activities.

## Programmatic Agreement

In May 2002, a Programmatic Agreement (PA) regarding the ALP Project was executed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in Washington D.C. The PA is an overall agreement between Reclamation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer.

The PA was prepared under the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act and delineates the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies for the cultural resources work associated with the ALP Project.

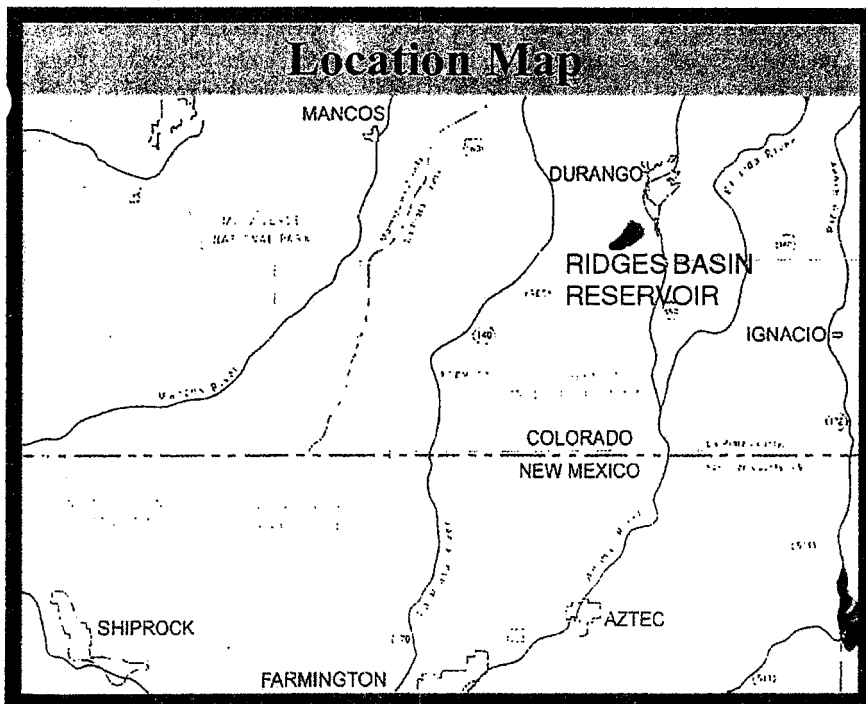


Water truck applying water for dust control.

## Construction Impacts on Durango

The construction activities within the next six months will have little impact on the residents of the city of Durango. County Road 211 remains open during pipe installation. The haul traffic is on a haul route adjacent and parallel to County Road 211 and does not impact the traffic on the county road.

Considerable attention is being given to dust control by placing water and dust deterrents on County Road 211 and other roads on the haul route.



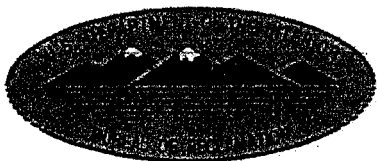
## Cultural Resource Contract

A contract for cultural resource mitigation was awarded to the UMUT in April 2002. This contract is for cultural investigations on the ALP Project. Cultural resource ground surveys have been performed within the areas of the Ridges Basin Dam, the Durango Pumping Plant, and the Ridges Basin Inlet Conduit. The Research Design and first year Mitigation Plan have been approved by the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer. Cultural mitigation of selected sites identified during the ground surveys will be mitigated by the UMUT.

For additional information on the Animas-La Plata Project, write or call:

Pat Schumacher; Bureau of Reclamation; WCAO;  
835 East 2nd Avenue, Suite 300; Durango, Colorado 81301  
Telephone: 970-385-6500

Or call our toll free telephone number that provides the date and place of public meetings relating to the Animas-La Plata Project at 1-866-720-0918. You can visit our website at: [www.uc.usbr.gov](http://www.uc.usbr.gov), select Programs & Activities, then Animas-La Plata Project.









United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Region  
Western Colorado Area Office

*file  
San Juan  
66 ALP  
795*

2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106  
Grand Junction CO 81506-8785

835 E 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite 300  
Durango CO 81301-5475

18 JUN 2002

WCD-EJensen  
ENV-6.00

To: Interested Agencies, Indian Tribes, Organizations, and Individuals

Subject: Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact and for the Animas-La Plata Project, Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir, Pre-Construction Facilities Relocation

Enclosed for your information are copies of the Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Animas-La Plata Project, Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir, Pre-Construction Facilities Relocation.

The FEA analyzed the environmental effects of relocating three gas pipelines currently located within Ridges Basin, in southwest Colorado. The relocation is necessary to allow construction of the Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir, an integral feature of the Animas-La Plata (ALP) Project. The three pipelines include:

- 26-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline, owned by Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest);
- 16-inch-diameter natural gas liquids pipeline (NGL), owned by Mid-America Pipeline Corporation (MAPCO); and
- 10-inch-diameter NGL pipeline, owned by MAPCO.

A Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) was released to the public on April 26, 2002, for public review and comment. Comments and suggested changes were analyzed and changes were made to the FEA where appropriate. The FEA recommends selection of the Northern Route alternative as the preferred route alignment. The FONSI concluded that implementing the preferred alternative will not result in any significant impacts on the environment other than those previously identified in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Animas-La Plata Project.

If you have any questions on the FONSI, FEA or the ALP Project, please contact Pat Schumacher at (970) 385-6590 at our Durango Office.

Sincerely,

*Susan Mozer*  
Carol DeAngelis  
Acting Area Manager

Enclosures

OSE-0845

2002 JUN 27 AM 9:30

OFFICE OF THE  
STATE ENGINEER  
A.S.D. SANTA FE, NM



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
WESTERN COLORADO AREA OFFICE

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

ANIMAS-LA PLATA PROJECT, RIDGES BASIN DAM AND RESERVOIR  
PRECONSTRUCTION FACILITIES RELOCATIONS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the findings of the Final Environmental Assessment: Animas-La Plata Project, Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir, Pre-Construction Facilities Relocations (FEA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that the relocation of three pipelines within Ridges Basin, as part of the Animas-La Plata Project (ALP Project), will not result in any significant impacts on the human environment other than those previously identified in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for the ALP Project; and has selected the Northern Route as the Preferred Route (alignment) for relocation construction.

The pipelines referenced above are:

- 26-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline, owned by Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest);
- 16-inch-diameter natural gas liquids (NGL) pipeline, owned by Mid-America Pipeline Corporation (MAPCO); and
- 10-inch-diameter NGL pipeline, owned by MAPCO.

BACKGROUND

On July 14, 2000, Department of the Interior (Interior), through Reclamation, in cooperation with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Colorado Ute Indian Tribes, released a FSEIS for the ALP Project in compliance with the NEPA. The FSEIS supplemented the environmental documents prepared by Reclamation in 1980 and 1996 for the ALP Project.

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt executed a Record of Decision (ROD) on September 25, 2000, which adopted an ALP Project that would involve construction and operation of a 120,000 acre-foot off-stream reservoir at Ridges Basin, as well as other features. The Colorado Ute Settlement Act Amendments of 2000 (P.L. 106-554, Title

III) that provided Reclamation with the authority to proceed with construction of the modified ALP Project were subsequently signed into law by President William Clinton on December 19, 2000.

Before construction can begin on the dam foundation, relocation of three pipelines that currently run through Ridges Basin must be completed. Reclamation's FSEIS described the potential environmental impacts associated with the relocations, however it did not determine a specific alignment corridor for the pipelines. Following the completion of the FSEIS, additional analysis was performed by Reclamation that narrowed the number of potential pipeline routes (17) described in the FSEIS to two potentially constructible alternatives. These two alternative routes, the Northern Route and the Southern Route, were analyzed in the FEA along with a No Action Alternative. The FEA tiers off the FSEIS and provides supplemental information and analysis.

The lead federal agency for the FEA is Reclamation. However, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is cooperating with Reclamation because of its responsibilities under the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for determining whether natural gas facilities proposed for use in interstate commerce are in the public interest. Because Northwest's 26-inch-diameter transmission pipeline is under the FERC's jurisdiction, the FERC must issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (FERC Certificate) before the pipeline can be relocated. Cooperating with Reclamation in the preparation of the FEA fulfills FERC's responsibilities for a NEPA analysis of Northwest's proposed action.

## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

### NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The purpose of the proposed project is to allow for the construction of the Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir. If the Northwest and MAPCO pipelines are not relocated, these facilities would prevent construction of the Ridges Basin Dam.

### ROUTING ALTERNATIVES

Two alternative routes, a route around the north side of the reservoir (Northern Route) and one around the southern side of the reservoir (Southern Route) were developed as the most feasible of the several alternative routes that had been evaluated. The Northern Route extends from the south face of Carbon Mountain north and west along the ridge north of the proposed Ridges Basin Reservoir. Review of Northwest's current right-of-way document concluded that Northwest has the right to change the product carried in its pipeline. In addition, MAPCO has proposed to convert one of their lines to carry petroleum products. In response to this information, Reclamation developed an alignment that had a high level of reliability in reducing the risk of a release of petroleum product from a converted pipeline into the reservoir. The Northern Route lies outside of Ridges Basin as a method of reducing this risk. (Discussions concerning the potential

product conversion for the pipelines are found within the FEA, Sections 3.1, 3.2, 5.2, and Attachments A and B.)

The Southern Route extends up the east face of Basin Mountain and then west along the north face of Basin Mountain. The route lies within the Ridges Basin drainage but represents the shortest feasible alignment outside of the maximum reservoir pool. This route would necessitate the use of the most up-to-date technology to reduce the likelihood of a release of petroleum product from a converted pipeline from reaching the reservoir. (A detailed description of both the Northern and Southern Routes is found within the FEA, Section 2.3).

## **PREFERRED ROUTE DETERMINATION**

The comparison of these two routes is discussed below. Although it is longer than the Southern Route, the Northern Route would have fewer engineering and environmental impacts. Table 5-1 of the FEA summarizes the environmental factors considered in assessing the Northern Route and the Southern Route alternatives, and results in the selection of the Northern Route as the preferred route for pipeline relocation.

The Northern Route is superior from a construction standpoint based on considerations of access, temporary work area, and hazardous geologic conditions. Access to the Northern Route is much better than access to the Southern Route. Also, the hazardous geologic conditions along the steep side slopes of Basin Mountain and the difficulties associated with preparation of a construction work area in this location are major factors of concern with construction along the Southern Route. Construction of the Northern Route is less complicated because no significant geologic hazards are apparent along this alignment.

The potential for environmental impacts from pipeline construction within the Southern Route appear greater than those from the Northern Route. Specific environmental concerns associated with the Southern Route identified in the FEA include potential landslides, impact to elk calving grounds, erosion potential, and visual impacts. In contrast, the affects on cultural resources is greater on the Northern Route, however, the affect would still not be any greater than originally estimated for in the FSEIS. Impacts to cultural resources would either be avoided as the pipelines are routed, or would be mitigated for under commitments made in the FSEIS.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE NORTHERN ROUTE AND COMMITMENTS**

### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Air Quality—Potential environmental consequences and mitigation for air quality impacts from facility construction were addressed in Section 3.16.4 of the FSEIS (page

3-249). Although the FSEIS did not specifically include a discussion of potential air quality impacts associated with pipeline construction, implementation of the general commitments made by Reclamation within the FSEIS on air quality will prevent the occurrence of any new effects to air quality within the area associated with the preferred alternative.

Geology and Soils—Potential effects/hazards associated with the geologic setting and soils were analyzed for the ALP Project within Section 3.8 of the FSEIS (page 3-122). The FEA additionally analyzed the potential hazards associated with the two proposed routes. The findings indicate that the Northern Route is not subject to any new or significantly more hazardous conditions than previously indicated under the FSEIS analysis.

Water Resources—Water resources (surface and groundwater) in the project area are described within Section 3.2.3 of the FSEIS (page 3-17). The FEA analysis indicate that no new changes in ground and surface water quality is anticipated as a result of the implementation of the preferred alternative.

Noise—Construction noise associated with the ALP Project was discussed within Section 3.17 of the FSEIS. A potentially significant impact was identified from dynamite blasting for the pipeline trenching which could exceed local noise standards and disturb nearby residents, recreationists and wildlife. The noise generated by the relocation of the pipeline was also identified as a possible potentially significant impact to golden eagle nesting on Carbon Mountain. Mitigation for these potential impacts was proposed in the FSEIS (pages 3-262 and 3-263) and Reclamation committed to those recommendations within Section 5 (page 5-19). The FEA analysis indicated that no new noise impacts would occur resulting from implementation of the preferred alternative.

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The FSEIS analyzed effects to vegetation resources within Section 3.4; to wildlife resources within Section 3.5; to aquatic resources within Section 3.6; and to Special Status Species within Section 3.7. Impacts to those resources were defined and commitments were made in the FSEIS to offset those impacts. No new additional impacts on vegetation, wildlife, aquatic resources, and special Status Species are likely to occur through the implementation of the preferred alternative.

Vegetation --- Reclamation has incorporated in the FEA the following commitments for construction of the pipeline relocation:

1. In visually sensitive areas, restoration of the construction right-of-way includes the revegetation and establishment of small trees and shrubs. Trees and large woody vegetation shall not be planted in the permanent pipeline rights-of-way.
2. Noxious weeds would be identified prior to construction, and control measures implemented during construction.

3. A weed management plan would be prepared as part of the Upland Erosion Control Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan to minimize the risk of weed infestation (requirement of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for approval of Northwest 26" gas pipeline)
4. To minimize clearing of ponderosa pines, the final route alignment and placement of temporary workspace would be planned to minimize impacts on ponderosa parkland.

Wildlife --- Implementation of the preferred alternative will not cause any new or significant impacts to the golden eagle pair noted to utilize the Ridges Basin area. The FEA does reiterate Reclamation's commitment to protect the birds by maintaining the 0.25 mile buffer zone during pipeline relocation construction.

Endangered and Threatened Species --- A Biological Assessment (BA) was submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (FEA, Attachment A). The analysis looked for potential effects of the preferred alternative on four federally listed Threatened or Endangered species (Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, southwestern willow flycatcher, and the bald eagle) and two Candidate species (Gunnison sage grouse and the yellow-billed cuckoo).

The Service concurred with Reclamation's determination of no effect for the Gunnison sage grouse, yellow-billed cuckoo, and southwestern willow flycatcher; and may affect but not likely to adversely affect for the Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker and the bald eagle. Reclamation committed to the implementation of several conservation measures in the BA (pages B15-16) and the FEA (Section 5.2) which would reduce the likelihood of impacts occurring to the bald eagle if MAPCO converts the 10" NGL to a liquid petroleum product. (BA, pages B15-16).

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Cultural Resources—The ALP Project lands area have been intensely inventoried by Reclamation as part of earlier ALP proposals. Section 3.9 of the FSEIS (pages 3-142 through 3-144) describe the cultural resources found within Ridges Basin, upper Wildcat Canyon and other adjacent areas. As part of the FEA, additional acres within the Northern Route corridor were examined in 2001. The FEA identified eight sites within the upper Wildcat Canyon area that are either eligible or currently "unevaluated". Reclamation commits to additional investigations and avoidance or mitigation of these eight sites as part of the overall cultural resource mitigation program for the entire ALP Project. The mitigation program is subject to compliance with the Final Amended Programmatic Agreement and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Plan (NAGPRA).

Land Use—The land uses in the project area are described in section 3.113 of the FSEIS (see page 3-215 et seq.). No new significant land use impacts as a result of constructing



and operating the proposed pipeline relocation project are anticipated beyond those originally discussed in the FSEIS (see page 3-223).

Transportation---The transportation resources in the project area are described in Section 3.15.3 of the FSEIS (page 3-236 et seq.). No new significant transportation impacts are projected within the FEA analysis from the pipeline construction now proposed.

Visual Resources-- The FSEIS outlined several measures to be implemented by Reclamation to help reduce impacts associated with the construction and presence of the physical components of the ALP Project. The FEA analysis indicated that no new effects not previously identified within the FSEIS would occur. As indicated on page 3-283 and page 5-20 of the FSEIS, Reclamation would employ the services of a qualified landscape architect to develop and supervise implementation of a landscaping plan that specifically focuses on minimizing the visual impacts of the pipeline relocation project. Measures specific to the pipeline construction include:

1. Areas graded and trenched along the right-of-way would be restored to original grades
2. A directional drilling construction technique would be used to bore through Carbon Mountain.
3. Contour of slopes following backfilling pipeline trench to blend with existing terrain
4. A visual mitigation plan would be developed for the corridor and would include measures to reduce the long-term visual impacts of the right-of-way (requirement for the FERC approval process).

Recreation---The FSEIS describes effects to recreation for the entire ALP Project within Section 3.11.3.2 (page 3-182), while the FEA analyzed the effects of the proposed action on existing and future recreation resources. The Northern Route pipeline relocation construction will affect current recreation, however, these affects will be short-term and are not considered significant. The overall recreation development plan for the Ridges Basin Reservoir will incorporate current uses.

## **COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION**

Written Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)--The DEA was distributed on April 26, 2002 to 197 Federal, state and local agencies, Indian Tribes, elected officials, local libraries, landowners and abutters, environmental groups, interested citizens, and the news media. It was also made available on the Reclamation Internet Web site and a letter of availability was sent out to other members of the public not on the primary pipeline relocation mailing list. A public comment period of more than 30 days was noticed, with comments requested on the DEA by May 28, 2002.

Eleven comments were received, including five from Federal agencies, one from a county agency, two from environmental groups, two from landowners and one from an Indian

Tribe. No new issues were raised by commentors that had not been previously been addressed either by modifications in the design of the preferred alternative or through analysis within the NEPA process. One issue that was brought up by some commentors throughout the process was whether an Environmental Assessment (EA) was the appropriate level of NEPA analysis for these pipeline relocations. It was determined within the FEA that since no new significant environmental impacts are associated with the abandonment and relocations activities, that the EA would fully meet all NEPA compliance requirements for this action. Issues raised by the commentors have been addressed and changes made in the text of the FEA where appropriate. Also, see Attachment C in the in the FEA for comments and responses to comments.

Native American Consultation--The FSEIS (pages 3-143 and 6-12) describes the consultation activities that were initiated with Native American groups that are interested in the Ridges Basin area, including the area that would be affected by relocation of the Northwest and MAPCO pipelines within Ridges Basin. No new concerns were identified by tribal organizations that had not previously been consulted on under the Programmatic Agreement or covered within the NAGPRA plan. The 26 tribes listed below were identified to have ancestral or contemporary ties to the Ridges Basin project area:

Hopi Tribe	Pueblo of San Juan
Jicarilla Apache Nation	Pueblo of Sandia
Navajo Nation	Pueblo of Santa Ana
Pueblo of Acoma	Pueblo of Santa Clara
Pueblo of Cochiti	Pueblo of Santo Domingo
Pueblo of Isleta	Pueblo of Taos
Pueblo of Jemez	Pueblo of Tesuque
Pueblo of Laguna	Pueblo of Zia
Pueblo of Nambe	Pueblo of Zuni
Pueblo of Picuris	San Juan Southern Paiute
Pueblo of Pojoaque	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Pueblo of San Felipe	Uintah-Ouray Ute Tribe
Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Coordination and Consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service—Reclamation worked closely with the Service for proper implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) . A Planning Aid Memorandum containing recommendations from the Service was provided to Reclamation in October 2001. Reclamation modified the analysis in the FEA to meet the Service’s concerns. A BA to meet ESA requirements was submitted to the Service in April 2002. The Service provided a concurrence memo for Reclamation’s effect determination in May 2002. In addition, Reclamation incorporated commitments in the FEA and BA to meet the Service’s concerns relating to hazardous material response planning and potential product conversion for the MAPCO 10” pipeline.

## CONCLUSION

Reclamation, within the FEA, selected the Northern Route as the preferred alternative for relocation of the three gas pipelines. This Finding of No Significant Impact has determined that implementation of the preferred alternative will not have any significant effect to the human environment and that relocation construction activities should proceed.

## CONCURRENCE

*Rob Waldman*

\_\_\_\_\_  
NEPA Compliance Officer, Western Colorado Area Office

*6/17/02*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Susan Moyer*

*ACTING* Area Manager, Western Colorado Area Office

*6/18/02*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





United States Department of Interior

*San Juan - 3  
ALP*

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Region  
Western Colorado Area Office

2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106  
Grand Junction CO 81506-8785

835 E 2nd Avenue, Suite 300  
Durango CO 81301-5475

JUN 21 2002

WCD-EJensen  
ENV-6.00

To: Interested Agencies, Indian Tribes, Organizations, and Individuals

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Animas-La Plata Project, Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir, Pre-Construction Facilities Relocation, Animas-La Plata Project, Colorado and New Mexico

The Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) analyzed the environmental effects of relocating three gas pipelines currently located within Ridges Basin, in southwest Colorado. The relocation is necessary to allow construction of the Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir, an integral feature of the Animas-La Plata (ALP) Project. The three pipelines include:

- 26-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline, owned by Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest);
- 16-inch-diameter natural gas liquids pipeline (NGL), owned by Mid-America Pipeline Corporation (MAPCO); and
- 10-inch-diameter NGL pipeline, owned by MAPCO.

A Draft Environmental Assessment was released to the public on April 26, 2002, for public review and comment. Comments and suggested changes were analyzed and changes were made to the FEA where appropriate. The FEA recommends selection of the Northern Route alternative as the preferred route alignment. Based on the evaluation of the impacts in the FEA and other factors, a FONSI was prepared. The FONSI concluded that implementing the preferred alternative will not result in any significant impacts on the environment other than those impacts previously identified in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Animas-La Plata Project.

Copies of the Final FEA and/or FONSI may be obtained from Rob Waldman, Four Corners Division, Bureau of Reclamation, 835 East Second Avenue, Suite 300, Durango, Colorado 81301-5475; telephone: (970) 385-6567; e-mail [rwaldman@uc.usbr.gov](mailto:rwaldman@uc.usbr.gov). The document is also available on Reclamation's web site at <http://www.uc.usbr.gov> (click on Animas-La Plata under Current Focus).

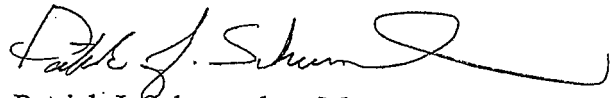
A Century of Water for the West  
1902 - 2002

Copies of the FEA and FONSI are also available at the following locations:

- Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior, Room 7455, 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.
- Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Regional Office, 125 South State Street, Room 6107, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138.
- Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, 2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506.
- Public libraries in Durango, Colorado, and Farmington, New Mexico.

If you have any questions on the FONSI, the FEA or the ALP Project, please contact me in Durango at (970) 385-6590.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Schumacher, Manager  
Four Corners Division

2002 JUN 24 AM 9:52

OFFICE OF THE  
STATE ENGINEER  
A.S.D. SANTA FE. NM





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Region  
Western Colorado Area Office

2002 JUN 27 AM 9:24

2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106  
Grand Junction CO 81506-8785

OFFICE OF THE  
STATE ENGINEER  
894 E. Hill Avenue, Suite 300  
Durango, CO 81301-5475  
S.D. SANTA FE, NM

18 JUN 2002

*John Whipple*  
*San Juan-3*  
*ALP*

WCD-EJensen  
ENV-6.00

To: Interested Agencies, Indian Tribes, Organizations, and Individuals

Subject: Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact and for the Animas-La Plata Project, Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir, Pre-Construction Facilities Relocation

Enclosed for your information are copies of the Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Animas-La Plata Project, Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir, Pre-Construction Facilities Relocation.

The FEA analyzed the environmental effects of relocating three gas pipelines currently located within Ridges Basin, in southwest Colorado. The relocation is necessary to allow construction of the Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir, an integral feature of the Animas-La Plata (ALP) Project. The three pipelines include:

- 26-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline, owned by Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest);
- 16-inch-diameter natural gas liquids pipeline (NGL), owned by Mid-America Pipeline Corporation (MAPCO); and
- 10-inch-diameter NGL pipeline, owned by MAPCO.

A Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) was released to the public on April 26, 2002, for public review and comment. Comments and suggested changes were analyzed and changes were made to the FEA where appropriate. The FEA recommends selection of the Northern Route alternative as the preferred route alignment. The FONSI concluded that implementing the preferred alternative will not result in any significant impacts on the environment other than those previously identified in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Animas-La Plata Project.

If you have any questions on the FONSI, FEA or the ALP Project, please contact Pat Schumacher at (970) 385-6590 at our Durango Office.

Sincerely,

*Susan Moyer*  
Carol DeAngelis  
Area Manager

Enclosures

OSE-0857







United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Region  
Western Colorado Area Office

*San Juan - 3  
ALP*

2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106  
Grand Junction CO 81506-8785

APR 26 2002

835 E 2nd Avenue, Suite 300  
Durango CO 81301-5475

WCD-EJensen  
ENV-6.00

To: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

Subject: Notice of Availability - Draft Environmental Assessment for the Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir Pre-Construction Facilities Relocation, Animas-La Plata (ALP) Project, Colorado and New Mexico

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (as amended), the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the proposed relocation of three pipelines to allow for the construction of the Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir.

The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the ALP Project (FSEIS) was issued on July 5, 2000. The DEA tiers from this FSEIS and discusses the relocation of (1) a 26-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline owned and operated by Northwest Pipeline Corporation (Northwest); (2) a 16-inch-diameter Mid-America Pipeline Corporation (MAPCO) natural gas liquids (NGL) pipeline; and (3) a 10-inch-diameter MAPCO NGL pipeline. The two MAPCO pipelines parallel the Northwest pipeline route through Ridges Basin.

This proposed federal action is an integral part of completing the ALP Project and allowing implementation of the Colorado Ute Settlement Act Amendments of 2000 (Public Law 106-554, Title III). The ALP Project will provide the Colorado Ute Tribes an assured long-term water supply to satisfy the Tribes' senior water rights claims, and provide for identified non-Indian municipal and industrial water needs in the project area.

Based on comments received during a 30-day public review period, Reclamation will prepare a Final Environmental Assessment (FEA)

Copies of the DEA may be obtained from Rob Waldman at the following address:

Bureau of Reclamation  
Four Corners Division  
Western Colorado Area Office  
835 East Second Avenue, Suite 300  
Durango CO 81301-5475.  
Telephone: (970) 385-6567

The document is also available on the Internet at [http:// www.uc.usbr.gov](http://www.uc.usbr.gov) under the Environmental Studies, Summaries & Reports heading.

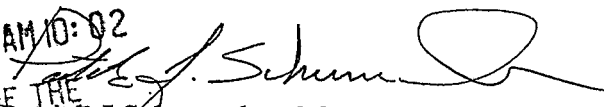
Copies of the DEA are also available for public review and inspection at the following locations:

- Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior, Room 7455, 18th and C Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.
- Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Regional Office, 125 South State Street, Room 6107, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138.
- Bureau of Reclamation, Four Corners Division of the Western Colorado Area Office, 835 East Second Avenue, Suite 300, Durango, Colorado 81301-5475.
- Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office, 2764 Compass Drive, Suite 106, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506.

You are invited to submit written comments on the DEA by letter to Mr. Rob Waldman, Four Corners Division, Bureau of Reclamation, 835 East Second Avenue, Suite 300, Durango, Colorado 81301-5475, or by e-mail at [rwaldman@uc.usbr.gov](mailto:rwaldman@uc.usbr.gov). Written comments will be received until May 28, 2002.

Sincerely,

2002 APR 29 AM 10:02

  
Patrick J. Schumacher, Manager  
Four Corners Division  
Western Colorado Area Office

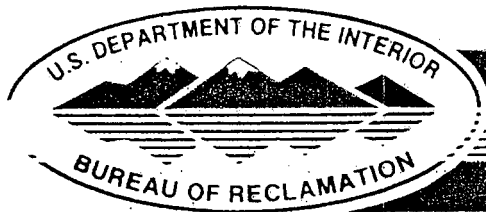
Enclosures

A Century of Water for the West  
1902 - 2002

OSE-0859



San Juan - 3  
All



**UPPER COLORADO REGION**

**NEWS RELEASE**

Western Colorado Area Office  
Durango, Colorado  
Patrick J. Schumacher (970) 385-6590  
For Release March 26, 2002

**Final Animas-La Plata Project Cost Sharing and Repayment Contracts Available to the Public**

The final Animas-La Plata Amendatory Funding Agreement and Repayment Contract between the United States and the San Juan Water Commission of New Mexico was executed on March 5, 2002, and is now available to the public. The amendatory repayment contract provides for delivery of project water, repayment of construction costs to the United States, and operation and maintenance of the project. The San Juan Water Commission's 1990 Repayment Contract was amended because of changes to the Animas-La Plata Project as a result of the Colorado Ute Settlement Act Amendments of 2000, Public Law 106-554.

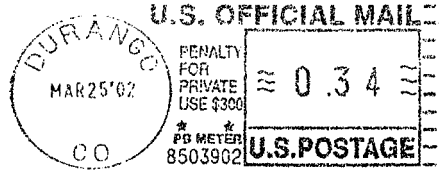
With the execution of this contract, Reclamation has completed the initial cost sharing agreements and repayment contracts as required by Public Law 106-554. The following contracts were also executed for the Animas-La Plata Project and are available to the public:

1. November 9, 2001 Amendment to the June 30, 1986 "Agreement in Principle Concerning the Colorado Indian Water Rights Settlement and Binding Agreement for Animas-La Plata Project Cost Sharing," which provided cost sharing arrangements for the Animas-La Plata Project.
2. November 9, 2001 Funding Agreement and Repayment Contract between the United States and the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority which provides for delivery of project water, repayment of construction costs to the United States, and operation and maintenance of the project.
3. November 9, 2001 Amendment to the November 10, 1989 Escrow Agreement with the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority which provided cost sharing funds for the Animas-La Plata Project pursuant to the June 30, 1986 Cost Sharing Agreement.
4. November 9, 2001 Amended and Restated Agreement and Instructions for Administering the above Escrow Agreement with the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority.
5. November 1, 2001 Escrow Agreement with the San Juan Water Commission which provides cost sharing funds for the Animas-La Plata Project.
6. November 1, 2001 Agreement and Instructions for Administering the above Escrow Agreement with the San Juan Water Commission for the project.

Copies of the executed contracts and other pertinent documents can be obtained from the Animas-La Plata Project web site at: [http://www.uc.usbr.gov/progact/animas/contract\\_neg.html](http://www.uc.usbr.gov/progact/animas/contract_neg.html). Copies are also available by contacting Dick Gjere, Bureau of Reclamation, 835 East Second Avenue, Suite 300, Durango, Colorado, 81301, telephone (970) 385-6531, E-mail [dgjere@uc.usbr.gov](mailto:dgjere@uc.usbr.gov).

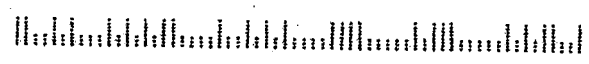
###

Bureau of Reclamation  
Western Colorado Area Office  
335 E 2nd Ave, Suite 300  
Durango CO 81301



**JOHN WHIPPLE  
WATER RESOURCE ENGINEER  
NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION  
PO BOX 25102  
SANTA FE NM 87504-5102**

B7504-5102





# KOGOVSEK & ASSOCIATES, INC.

469 San Juan - 3  
ALB  
ANGee  
JJW

## Fax Cover Sheet

TO: Judy Knight Frank and Tribal Council    Kent Holsinger  
Leonard Burch and Tribal Council    Scott McElroy  
Lynn Herkenhoff (for Griswold)    Sam Maynes  
Peter Ortego    David Robbins  
Randy Kirkpatrick    Peter Carlson  
Tom Turney, Norm Gaume    Stanley Pollack  
Don Schwindt    Wendy Weiss  
Dan Israel    Stella Montoya  
Fred Kroeger    Charlie Blassingame

FROM: Christine Arbogast

DATE: March 22

TOTAL PAGES: 4

If any problems occur with this transmittal, call 303-893-2780.

Attached please find a letter which was hand delivered today to the Energy and Water Appropriations regarding Animas La-Plata. You will note that they requested the \$43 million we asked for, \$10 million more than the Administration budget. *But look closely, because the very best news is at the end of the letter, where you will see the signatures of ALL SIX House members in our delegation.* Congratulations. This is a result of a lot of hard work, patience and compromise on your part.

8547 E. Arapahoe Road #J439 • Greenwood Village, Colorado 80112 • 303/893-2780 • 720/489-0524 Fax  
600 Thirteenth St. • Suite 790 • Washington, D.C. 20005 • 202/628-6870 • 202/628-7804 Fax  
215 W. 2nd St. • Pueblo, Colorado 81003 • 719/544-0295 • 719/542-8515 Fax

OSE-0862

03/22/02 FRI 15:07 FAX 7204890524

KOGOVSEK & ASSOC

←←← GAUME

100 7



# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2002

The Honorable Sonny Callahan, Chairman  
 Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
 House Appropriations Committee  
 2362B Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Callahan:

We wish to voice our collective support for the implementation of the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement of 1988, amended by Congress in 2000. Critical to this goal of settling the obligation to the tribes are sufficient and timely appropriations. In FY '03, the Administration has requested \$33 million. The undersigned Members and the parties to the settlement, including the Colorado Ute Tribes, appreciate this significant commitment to the Animas-La Plata Project that is the keystone of the negotiated agreement.

It is our understanding that the Bureau of Reclamation estimates at this time that its spending capability will be at least \$38 million. Funding will allow the Bureau and the Colorado Ute Tribes, through their participation under the Indian Self-Determination Act and the Settlement Act, to initiate construction on the Durango pumping plant; implement wetlands and fish mitigation programs; initiate construction of Ridges Basin Dam; implement the cultural resource mitigation activities; complete relocation of natural gas pipelines; acquire land to develop borrow resources and design and gather data related to the inlet conduit.

The 1988 Settlement Act provided a window during which the Tribes could re-file their lawsuit if sufficient progress had not been made in constructing the storage facility. As the Committee knows, significant delays occurred which opened that window. Thus arose the need for the amendments which passed in the 106th Congress. We agree with the Tribes' concern that the appropriations levels may slow as progress is made on the project. Should that occur, the Utes may be forced to wait even

longer for the project to be completed and the ultimate cost will certainly rise because of further delays. One purpose of the amendments was to lower the project cost. Furthermore, higher costs will mean higher payments for the small quantities of the water the non-Indians will receive from the project.

In light of these concerns, the 2000 amendments to the Settlement Act provide for the establishment of the Colorado Ute Settlement Fund (Sec. 17 of PL 106-554). This provision authorizes the appropriation of full funding in five years even though the project timetable anticipates a seven-year construction period. Funds which the Congress appropriates in advance will remain in the Settlement Fund in accordance with Section 17 for expenditure in the final fiscal years to help ensure timely project completion.

This funding mechanism also allows for more balance in the appropriations cycle, with the intent of lowering funding requirements during the fiscal years in which peak construction is underway. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Committee include \$43 million in its FY '03 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill. The 2000 amendments to the Settlement Act provide for the establishment of the Colorado Ute Settlement Fund (Sec. 17 of P.L. 106-554). This provision authorizes the appropriation of funds in five years to complete construction in seven years. Any funds which the Bureau cannot spend on the above stated activities would remain in the Settlement Fund in accordance with Section 17 for expenditure in future fiscal years.

The Committee has a long history of support for the project, throughout the many debates which led to the 2000 amendments which significantly altered the project. It is now one third its original size and one third its original cost. And yet, the downsized project fulfills the very honorable intent of the settlement: to provide the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute people with water promised more than a century ago, without taking that water from their neighbors.

We join the State of Colorado and the parties to the settlement in support of a \$43 million appropriation for FY '03.

Sincerely,

Scott McInnis  
Member of Congress

Joel Hefley  
Member of Congress

Bob Schaffer  
Member of Congress

Thomas G. Tancredo  
Member of Congress

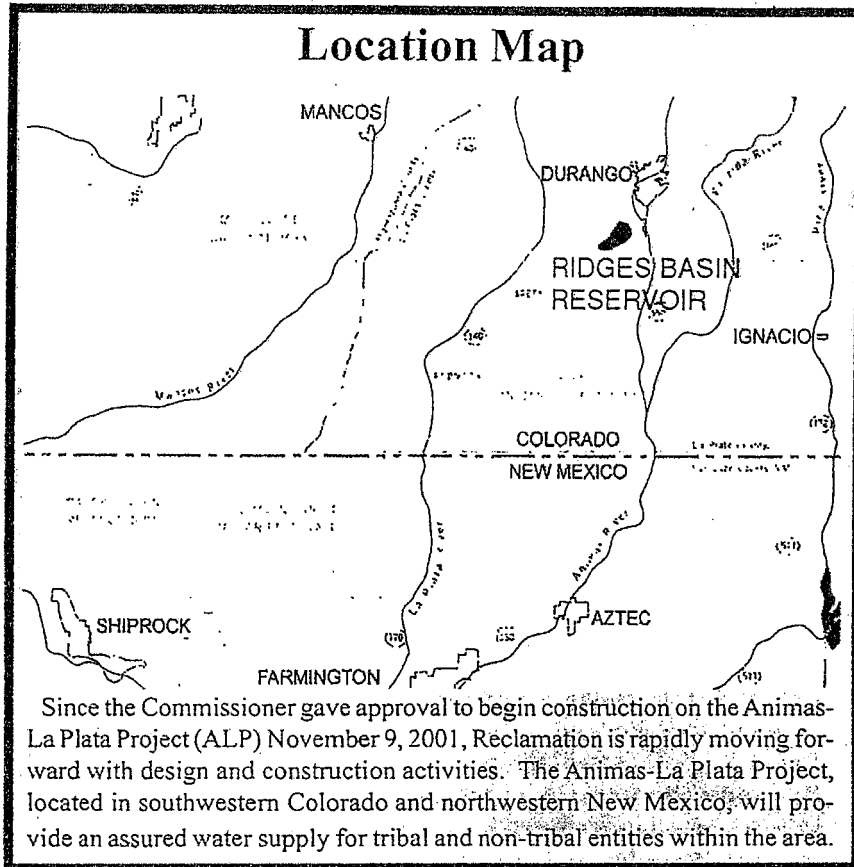
Mark Udall  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress





# Animas-La Plata Project Update



and Reservoir. The pipelines, transmission line, and county road will be rerouted around the reservoir. The work is expected to begin this summer.

## Cultural Resource Contract

Reclamation is pursuing an Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (Act) contract with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (UMUT) for cultural resources investigations on the ALP Project. This will be the first construction-related contract under the Act for the project.

The UMUT will assume much of the contract administration functions normally carried out by Reclamation. It is anticipated that the contract between Reclamation and the UMUT can be secured this spring. Work is expected to begin this summer prior to any construction.

## The Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir

The design and construction of Ridges Basin Dam and Reservoir has started. The off-stream reservoir will be located southwest of Durango, Colorado and have the ability to store approximately 120,000 acre-feet (total capacity) of water. The water will then be released, as necessary, back to the Animas River for municipal and industrial users within Colorado and New Mexico.

The reservoir will have an inactive pool of approximately 30,000 acre-feet of water for recreation, fish, and water quality purposes.

## Pumping Plant

Reclamation is completing the designs for the Durango Pumping Plant and construction will begin next year. The 280 cubic feet per second capacity pumping plant will be located south of the center of Durango on the west side of the Animas River across from Santa Rita Park. The plant will pump water from the river up to the Ridges Basin Reservoir.

## Relocation of Utilities and County Road

Four natural gas pipelines, an electric transmission line, and a county road will be relocated as a result of construction of Ridges Basin Dam

## Purchase of Mitigation Lands

Reclamation is purchasing 6,000 acres of land within the La Plata River area near Redmesa. The land will be developed to fulfill mitigation requirements for vegetation, wildlife habitat, and wetlands that will be impacted by building the ALP Project.

## The ALP Project Operating Committee

The ALP Project Operating Committee consists of Reclamation and the seven entities that will receive water from the ALP Project. They are: the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe,

*This is the first in a series of newsletters designed to provide information on the Bureau of Reclamation's Animas-La Plata Project construction activities.*

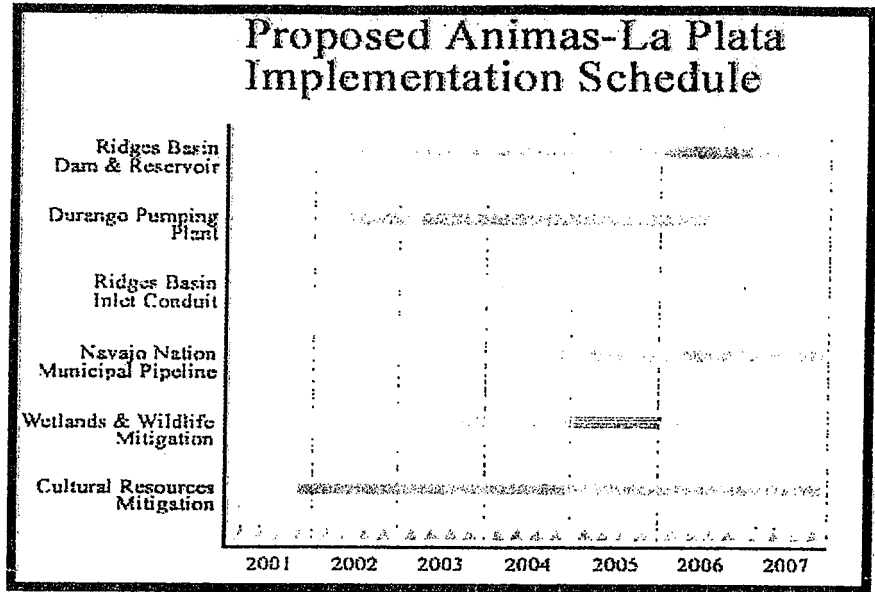
the La Plata Conservancy District of New Mexico, the State of Colorado, the Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District, and the San Juan Water Commission in New Mexico.

One of the main orders of business for the group is to decide who will operate the ALP Project once it is built. The public is invited to attend the committee meetings.

## ALP Organization

The Animas-La Plata Project is one of the highest priorities for the Bureau of Reclamation. To be able to construct the project within budget and on time, a Project Management Team (PMT), consisting of representatives from the Upper Colorado Regional Office, Farmington Construction Office (FCO), the Technical Service Center, and the Western Colorado Area Office (WCAO) has been organized to provide overall direction and decisions regarding project implementation. The PMT deals with the "big picture" issues including budget allocations and justification, and communications with the Washington Office.

Because of the various talents and

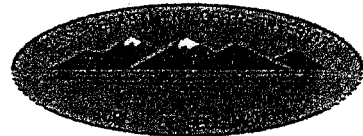


capabilities that exist within current offices located in the vicinity of the Animas-La Plata Project, the PMT decided to combine the resource management capabilities of the WCAO with the construction management capabilities of the FCO to complete the project. The ultimate responsibility for ensuring work is accomplished lies with Carol DeAngelis, WCAO Area Manager. Pat Schumacher the WCAO-Four Corners Division Manager has been designated the ALP Project Manager to provide for management and coordination of the project. Art Valverde, Construc-

tion Manager of the Farmington Construction Office has lead responsibility for completion of construction of the major features on the project with Rick Ehat designated as the Construction Engineer who will provide management of the day-to-day construction activities.



Artist Rendition of Reservoir



For additional information on the Animas-La Plata Project, write or call:

**Pat Schumacher**  
**Bureau of Reclamation**  
**Western Colorado Area Office**  
**835 East 2nd Avenue, Suite 300**  
**Durango, Colorado 81301**  
**Telephone: 970-385-6500**

Or call our toll free telephone number that provides the date and place of meetings relating to the Animas-La Plata Project at 866-720-0918.