



**THE
NAVAJO
NATION**

P.O. Box 9000 • WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA • 86515

PRESIDENT
JOE SHIRLEY, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
FRANK J. **DAYISH, J.**

AUG 22 2003

Ms. Elouise Chicharello, Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Navajo Regional Office
P.O. Box 1060
Gallup, New Mexico 87305-1060

RE: Request for a Position from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Regarding the Role of the Navajo Allottees in the Navajo Nation San Juan River Water Rights Settlement.


Dear Ms. Chicharello:

The Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico have made very significant progress on a negotiated settlement of the Navajo Nation's federally reserved water rights in the San Juan River Basin. Both the Nation and the State recognize that the interests of the Navajo allottees in the basin will need to be addressed through this settlement. At the negotiation session in Albuquerque on June 25, 2003, the federal negotiating team noted that addressing the concerns of the allottees is a Department of the Interior responsibility, and that these concerns must be addressed for the settlement to succeed.

The Navajo Nation wants to know what the position of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs is on the rights of the Navajo allottees, and how their interests will be incorporated into the Navajo Nation San Juan River water rights settlement. The Navajo Nation will be inviting a Bureau of Indian Affairs representative to attend a public meeting to be held in Crownpoint in the near future to discuss this matter.

We look forward to your response and to your continued support on furthering the aspirations of the Navajo people.

Sincerely,
THE NAVAJO NATION


Joe Shirley, Jr.
President

xc: John R. D'Antonio, Jr., P.E., State Engineer
Michael Schoessler, Department of the Interior