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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. John H. Provinse, Assistant Commissioner

DATE: March 16, 1949.

FROM : Irrigation Division

SUBJECT: Black Falls Project - Navajo Reservation

The Black Falls Project is located on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona about 25 miles northwest of Leupp. The diversion dam on the Little Colorado River is on land formerly a portion of the Waputka National Monument. The project was surveyed by the Irrigation Division in 1940 and constructed by CCC-ID in 1941 and 1942. A masonry diversion dam 1,050 feet long founded on lava outcrop was constructed with an overflow crest eight feet high. A radial sluice gate 10 feet long and five high and a canal headgate were installed in the structure. An earth canal about four miles in length was constructed from the headgate. Costs incurred to date are \$2,050 expended for surveys and \$51,667 (non-reimbursable) by the CCC-ID. The distribution system was not constructed and the works cannot be utilized.

In the Navajo program of March 1948 the Black Falls project is listed as having a potential area of 1,600 acres with an estimated cost of completion of \$75,000. I do not know how these cost figures were obtained. To complete the canals and laterals for 1,600 acres would cost in the neighborhood of \$60,000, and assuming that 1,000 acres would require subjugation, the total cost to complete would be not less than \$125,000. A reconnaissance soil survey classed 600 acres as class A or class B agricultural lands. It is probable that the figure of 1,600 acres as potentially irrigable is somewhat optimistic.

The plain fact is that the limited funds obtained in the past for irrigation on the Navajo has precluded the resumption of this development. The funds have been used primarily for Many Farms and other projects where a backlog of applications for irrigated farms are on file. Funds were not included in the 1950 estimate for development. It should have early priority for construction, however, in view of the fact that it is one of the few miscellaneous Navajo projects where an adequate supply is available.

W. L. Miller,
Acting Director

Filed by L. B. L.