

Navajo-Moqui

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE



SUPERVISING ENGINEER  
ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.

October 21st, 1920.

*Copy for Mr. Reed*

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

In accordance with your directions the six Superintendents of the jurisdiction comprising the Navajo and Hopi Reservations met with me in Gallup, New Mexico on the 28th day of September, to formulate plans for the continuation of the water development on these reservations.

After due deliberation and ample discussion of the subject, during which the plans upon which we had been working and upon which we thought work should or might be continued was given them by Foreman Wemack in charge of the water development and myself, certain findings were made, which were signed by the six superintendents as their recommendation and upon their request it was signed by me as concurring in their findings. The signed copy of this was mailed to you that same day. The last paragraph of this report stated that I had been requested to formulate a report and estimate to be submitted to you in this connection.

For your convenience in following the matter a copy of the findings of these gentlemen is as follows:

Gallup N. M. September 28 1920.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington.

Sir:-

"In accordance with your directions to us and mutual consent of ourselves as to the time of meeting, we, the undersigned, met in Gallup on this date to discuss well drilling and water development in general. After due discussion we have arrived at the following conclusions which we consider will be to the best interest of our Indians, all things considered; and ask

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your approval of the plans and suggestions submitted:-

1. That the two rigs now in operation be continued where they are for the present; one along the east line of the San Juan jurisdiction which will be of benefit to the Indians of that jurisdiction and a number of the Indians of the Crown Point jurisdiction; the one now working on the Moqui reservation to continue operations there.

2. We urge the purchase of at least two more similar rigs at the very earliest possible date the money can be secured, and when purchased one of them be assigned to the work on Western Navajo Reservation for a period of years, and the other should work on the San Juan Reservation for some time. We make this recommendation for the reason that we recognize that these two reservations have so far received very little benefit from the appropriations for water development heretofore made.

3. We request that you use every effort to secure from Congress larger appropriations for this work. We invite your attention to the fact that there is a heavy demand for drillers in this country and that the Supervising Engineer is unable to secure a sufficient number of competent drillers at the wages he is able to pay. There must be an increased appropriation or the work must drag. When oil men are paying drillers \$10 to \$15 a day we must be prepared to meet that rate or to employ inferior men, and we believe that inferior men cost more in the long run than the competent ones and delay the work as well. The presentation of our needs to the Congress cannot be made too strong.

4. We understand that something over two-thirds of the \$50,000 appropriation for developing springs and other sources of water supply was allowed to the Treasury last year. We urge that all the present appropriation for that purpose be duly allotted to the various jurisdictions and expended under the supervision of the Supervising Engineer's department or where practical by the Superintendent with his regular employees, thereby making a saving of funds.

We are not particular as to who spends the money so it is spent in water development. We believe

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that the Superintendents and their Farmers and Stockmen might have a more intimate knowledge of the springs capable of development than any one else and the location where such work should first be done.

We at times feel that Congress does not fully understand that we have between 30,000 and 35,000 Indians under our charge, located over a vast territory; that these Indians are self supporting and are therefore self reliant, independent and somewhat wild. They have never had any gratuities from the Government and do not want any. However, they do need some help. They are beginning to realize the value of schools and improved livestock. The future of the southwestern Indian is assured if he is given some help at this time. That help can be given in two ways; Schools, and Livestock. The livestock part of it covers through increased water development and pure bred sires. Just now we are discussing the water development with Mr. Robinson who is not especially interested in the other question. It will take money to do his part of it. Congress seems inclined to give us the money, but only in small appropriations each year, whereas greater progress could be made if a larger sum was set aside at one time and push the work and finish it up. We urge this as a sound business and economic policy.

A copy of this is given to the Supervising Engineer with a request that he prepare and submit the necessary estimates for the work outlined above."

Paragraph 1 was of course concurred in by me as it recommends a continuation of the work as outlined by me and which has heretofore had your approval.

Paragraph.2. The purchase of two more similar rigs is urged. One to be used on the Western Navajo Reservation, the other on the San Juan Reservation. With the funds available for this current year it will be possible to divert any of this money to the purchasing of a rig and continue the other work as fully as it should be. I fully concur with them in their opinion and believe that these rigs should be purchased and operated to their fullest extent as soon as Congress will give us sufficient funds.

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Paragraph 3. It is obvious that additional funds and larger appropriations are needed to carry on this work. For several years we have had from \$25,000 to \$30,000 annually to carry on this work and there has not been a year that the funds were sufficient for the program outlined. Great advances have occurred in machinery, well casing, pipe and all other materials used in the work as well as a tremendous advance in wages. There is scarcely anything we use that has not increased at least 100%. Drillers whom we are authorized to pay \$150 a month are getting from \$12 to \$15 a day; while their helpers are being paid from \$8 to \$10. Where formerly we could use all of the money in doing new work, now it is taking from \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year for operation and maintenance expenses in keeping up the wells already drilled and the equipment in the field and as new wells are drilled and equipment already in place gets older and wears out the operation and maintenance charges will be still greater.

Paragraph 4. This statement regarding the \$50,000 appropriation for developing springs and other sources of water has reference to the proviso of the Indian Appropriation Bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1921, page 8 (Public 141, 66th Congress). Inasmuch as a specific appropriation is made for the development of the water supply for the Navajo and Hopi Indians it is probable that none of the \$50,000 would be applicable. I would call your attention, however, to the fact that the wording in connection with the Navajo and Hopi Indian appropriation covers the Navajo, Moqui, Pueblo Bonito, San Juan and Western Navajo Reservation but does not include the Navajo Extension Reservation; so that any work done on the Navajo Extension could be done from the \$50,000 fund. (I would also call your attention in the wording of this appropriation to the fact that there is a comma between the words Pueblo and Bonito, which should be stricken out in the next Appropriation Bill in order to give the proper name to that jurisdiction.)

The amount of the appropriation for the present fiscal year is \$35,000, which I have tentatively divided to be used as follows:

Rig No. 6 .....	\$ 8,000.00	(8 months)
Rig No. 7 .....	10,700.00	(12 " )
Navajo Maintenance .....	6,000.00	
Hopi Maintenance .....	5,000.00	
Spring Work .....	3,200.00	(8 months)
Total .....	<u>\$32,900.00</u>	

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During the year it will be necessary to purchase tanks, windmills, troughs, pipe and cement and the remaining \$2,100 will be inadequate for this purpose. Of course this allotment is only tentative and the various sums will be switched back and forth as may be found necessary towards the end of the fiscal year in order that all of the money may be expended properly and the maximum amount of work done. The great fluctuation of the cost of material and the varying conditions under which the work is done makes it very difficult to estimate what any given part of the work will cost at a given time.

I would also call your attention to the fact that in addition to the funds authorized the Indians are donating more or less work and time to the water development. In practically all cases the Indians are hauling, free of charge, the rock necessary for foundations for tanks and windmills; they are doing much of the distributing of materials from the headquarters camp, free of charge; they are furnishing more or less of the fuel used in the various rigs and camps without charging therefor and in many cases are hauling at least a portion of the water necessary for well drilling and camp maintenance.

An estimate has been made for the next fiscal year to carry out the recommendations of the council of Superintendents to include the purchase of two new rigs, their operation and the purchasing of other material necessary.

Purchase of two new rigs .....	\$ 6,000.00
Two camp outfits including wagons, tents, tools, etc., for the well drilling outfits .....	2,500.00
The operation of four rigs for one yr.	40,000.00
Maintenance of wells, windmills, and springs for one year .....	15,000.00
Spring work, that is, the developing of springs not heretofore done .....	5,000.00
For the purchase of tanks, troughs, windmills, pipe and cement .....	8,000.00
Total .....	<u>\$76,500.00</u>

This amount may look large but it will be absolutely necessary to have this sum to carry on the work as outlined.

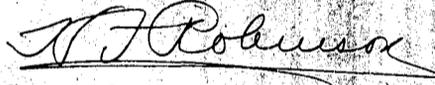
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To complete development of water on these reservations it will cost less to have the larger equipment and do the work up in a short space of time than it will to have a much smaller sum annually to accomplish the same result. By doing it in a short space of time the overhead expense will be cut down and the Indians can begin to reap the benefit of the increased water development and the difference of one year in developing a number of wells may make a difference to the Indians of the Reservations of a number of thousand of dollars in increased stock.

I have assumed that you would approve of the recommendations of this conference of Superintendents and immediately upon the close of this conference I started to secure a driller as we are only operating one of the two drills at the present time. Owing to the high wages paid to these men elsewhere and the comparatively small amount authorized by the Government I have not yet been able to locate a competent man that will accept the position, and while I have had several applications investigations have shown that the men were not even worth the small amount I was authorized to pay them and I have not engaged their services. In the spring development work it was thought to be necessary to secure the services of at least one white man to take charge of the Indians, but I have not been able to find a good mechanic to look after the stone work and pipe fitting. Hence Foreman Womack has been attempting to do all of this work himself in addition to his general supervisory work.

Unless I receive other instructions from you the work will be continued along the lines recommended by this committee and pushed with as much vigor as possible. It is hoped that a driller can be secured that both rigs may be put into operation at once.

Very respectfully,



Supervising Engineer.

HFR:HMH

C/C to each Superintendent and to Foreman Womack.