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Water Development  
Navajo and Hopi

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN FIELD SERVICE

Fifth Irrigation District  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

May 16, 1932

Mr. E. R. McCray, Superintendent  
Northern Navajo Agency  
Shiprock, New Mexico

Dear Sir:

We have now received notice of the appropriations authorized in the Interior Department bill for the fiscal year 1933, and find that for water development in the Navajo and Hopi Reservation this has been cut from \$106,000 to \$73,000 which, of course, seriously curtails our program for the coming year. However, in order to do as much work as possible we have under consideration several means whereby with Indian help we could possibly get a little more for our money.

As you know, during the past year we have built earthen dams for stock water tanks on Northern, Southern, and Hopi jurisdictions using Indian teams. The work was done on the yardage basis. In practically every instance the Indians made good wages, and in some cases, considerably more than the average pay for Indian teams on the reservation. The price paid was 20¢ a cubic yard for earth work. In view of the fact that this work is for the Indians and that they have plenty of time in which to do it, it is believed that it would be more satisfactory to all concerned if they would work for less than the amount paid during the past year. It is believed that a rate of 15¢ a cubic yard would be ample to cover the costs of feeding the Indians and their stock during the construction period. When it is considered that the work is for them it is believed that they should be willing to do it, as it should not hamper their other activities.

In the matter of digging shallow wells, it has been the custom in the past wherever possible to get the Indians to furnish the labor, or at least a portion of it, without compensation. It is believed now that in order to do as much work as possible that they could furnish practically all of the labor, this Service furnishing the supervision and the materials. In this

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way, we could possibly increase the number of dug wells by 50 per cent over past performances for the same amount of money expended.

The reduction in pay for earth work and other work would not be much when the reduction in cost of commodities is taken into account.

At this time we express our appreciation for the assistance you have given during the past year in the work with the Indians on our water development program, and now ask for your approval and assistance in putting the program before the Indians, and we wish you to write us fully regarding this matter, giving your opinion as to what you think of the above procedure.

Very truly yours,

*H. C. Neuffer*

H. C. Neuffer,  
Supervising Engineer.

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