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June 28, 1939

File 9056-D WJT

Los Angeles, California.
June 28, 1939.

Mr. H. V. Clotts, Assistant Director of Irrig.,
Room 520, 8th & Figueroa Building,
Los Angeles, California.

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Dear Mr. Clotts:

In compliance with instructions in your letter of June 12th to Mr. Seth Wilson, Superintendent of the Hopi Agency, I left Los Angeles on Sunday, June 18th at 9:30 A.M., stayed the night of the 18th at Prescott, Arizona and reached Keams Canyon, Arizona at 4 P.M. on June 19th. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Westerman, General Foreman, were away from Keams Canyon for a conference at Window Rock. They returned to Keams Canyon a short time after I reached there.

The nineteenth was spent with Mr. Westerman in looking over some of the Hopi area and some of the proposed projects. The wepo and Phillips Farms areas were visited but the Jeddito Project was not seen. This latter project is in the Hopi Reservation but the area is occupied by Navajos who will receive the benefit of the project works.

A meeting was held at the Navajo Agency on the 19th at which time an agreement was reached concerning the division of funds and equipment between the Navajo and Hopi jurisdictions. Present at the meeting were Messrs. Rapie, Wilson, Westerman, Brown, Schwartz and Bently. The agreement reached is explained in a letter to the Commissioner written by Mr. Rapie on June 19th. I understand that a copy of this letter was sent to you.

A program of work for the Hopi jurisdiction was prepared at Window Rock on the 19th and after some small modifications, was ready to go to the Washington Office on the 21st. I am attaching a copy of this program.

It seems that Mr. Wilson will not have jurisdiction over the entire Executive Order Reservation for the Hopi Indians, but rather over that part defined by the Navajo Service as Grazing District No. 6. My understanding is that Grazing District No. 6 includes all of the Hopi villages except Moencopi. The district lies between the Dinebito Wash on the northwest and the Jeddito on the southeast.

The Jeddito Project was under construction by the Navajo Service the present year but is not completed. There remains on this project work to the extent of $13,500. According to the agreement reached, this project will be completed by the Navajo Service and the Hopi jurisdiction

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will contribute $6750 as the Hopi half of the estimated amount required.

The Hepo feature is rather uncertain. It is proposed to construct a diversion dam in the Hepo Wash and by means of a ditch convey water and flood some abandoned fields formerly farmed by the Hopis. The Hepo Wash carries water only in the spring when snows melt on the upper water sheds and in late summer following summer rains usually in July and August. It is planned to do the work on this feature in cooperation with Soil Conservation Service. If this cooperation is arranged, it is planned that the S.C.S. will build a soil saving dam and the canal heading will be placed at or above this dam. Surplus water not needed on the farm area will be spread over grass lands in the vicinity. Surveys have not been made and whether or not the feature is constructed will depend on the results of surveys and the success of the proposed cooperation mentioned above.

Some work has been done on the Phillips Farms feature. At a point in the Pollacca Wash several miles below the junction of the Hepo Wash, there is a rock outcrop. At this point there is a flow of water at all times. According to Mr. Westerman this flow is not less than 1/2 second foot even in dry times. A small storage dam on the rock outcrop is now nearly completed.

The dam is about 90 feet in length. There will be three radial gates near the south end of the dam. Each gate will be 16 feet long and 4 feet high. The gate nearest the south abutment will have an independent worm gear hoist, while the next two gates will be raised or lowered simultaneously by a single worm gear hoist. Beyond the third gate there is now completed a weir of rock masonry, 4 feet high, 21 inches wide on top and 5½ feet wide on the bottom. The north abutment is of rock masonry and is 10 feet high. The wing walls at the north end are also of rock masonry. The abutment wall and wing walls at the south end are of reinforced concrete. Piers between radial gates are 10 feet high and 2 feet thick and are of reinforced concrete. A reinforced concrete catwalk will extend from the south abutment across the three gate piers. A pump well is provided just outside and adjacent to the south abutment. The reservoir will have a capacity of about 1½ acre feet.

The proposed plan is to store the water behind the dam until the reservoir is full then by means of a gasoline driven centrifugal pump to put the water into a ditch on the land above the wash. The area to be irrigated is limited only by the amount of water available. It is the plan to clear and prepare about 40 acres at the present time. It is intended to devote the area to the raising of subsistence gardens.

The intention is to purchase a pump of 900 gallons per minute capacity. The static head, from bottom of dam to point of discharge back of rim of wash, is 58 feet. About 200 lin. ft. of discharge pipe will be required, with one 45° elbow.

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The feature appears feasible but there are some points not entirely favorable. The water appears to be at least slightly alkaline. The soil nearest the pump is said to contain considerable alkali. However, the soil has been classified by the S.C.S. soils men who stated that the soil is better farther from the wash. The maximum distance is probably one-half mile. If the radial gates in the dam are not opened to allow floods to pass through there is great danger that the storage space will become filled with sand and silt. Good supervision will be required to keep the pumping plant in working order and to see that the pump and pipe lines are drained to prevent freezing in winter.

Returning, I left Keams Canyon late on June 21 and arrived in Los Angeles at 5:30 P.M., June 23.

Yours truly,

cc - Walton

Thos. H. McCarty,
Supervising Engineer.

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