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N-20073

August 19, 1966

Mr. Leon Hill
Regional Director
Region 5
Bureau of Reclamation
P O Box 1609
Amarillo, Texas

Dear Mr. Hill:

I appreciate the opportunity afforded the State of New Mexico to participate in the preparation of the "Reevaluation Report Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, New Mexico - July 1966" and I have this date executed the letter of transmittal. I offer the following comments on the report.

The reevaluation report estimates a project diversion demand averaging 508,000 acre feet annually, allowing 25% for operational waste from the conveyance system. This allowance appears high and it is my view that the diversion demand probably will not exceed an average of about 480,000 acre feet annually. The right to divert 508,000 acre feet annually for the irrigation of 110,630 acres is clearly established by the authorizing legislation; however, the amount diverted should not exceed the amount required for reasonably efficient project operation.

A reduction in diversion demand would reduce the pumping costs estimated in the report and would have the effect of retaining water in storage to reduce shortages to the diversion demand of the project and to others contracting for water from the Navajo Reservoir. The opportunity for consumptive waste of water also would be reduced.

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The conclusion of the report numbered 1 states: "From the information now available it appears we should continue to contemplate a 110,630 acre irrigation project." I concur in this conclusion, provided that it is supported by the Navajo tribe.

Sincerely yours,

S. E. Reynolds
State Engineer

SEN/dma

bcc: I. J. Coury