

**Tularosa Basin Desalination Research Facility Study  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Conference Call  
September 4, 2002**

**Participants**

Lorenzo Arriaga - USBR/EI Paso  
Bobby Creel – Assoc. Dir. NM WRRRI  
Ed Fierro – City of EI Paso  
Tom Jennings – USBR/Denver  
Mike Hightower – Sandia  
Paul Kinshella – City of Phoenix

Steve Easley- City of Alamogordo  
Jim Pacheco - Sandia  
Del Holz – USBR/Denver  
Bruce Johnson – Tucson Water Utilities  
Rick Huff – USGS/Las Cruces  
John Layman – Nims-Calvani

**Goals and Objectives- Mike Hightower**

Mike welcomed members of the Executive Committee (EC) to the conference call. Mike reviewed the meeting agenda, and presented the following meeting goals and objectives:

- Update on meetings, interactions, and activities,
- Review facility plan upgrades from the architect, and
- Identify schedule for further reviews.

**Facility Study Report- Mike Hightower and Tom Jennings**

Mike started discussion noting that all of the changes suggested at the last EC meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup> were incorporated into the latest report and sent to the BOR on Friday August 23<sup>rd</sup>. This version includes information on the top ranked site, information on the management structure, etc. Tom Jennings mentioned that the BOR Director of Research had received the updated report and had sent it along to OMB to review.

The updated report did not include the updated site and floor plans. There was not time to incorporate those changes in the one day we had. The BOR did not have a problem with that and are willing to have the final drawings in the final report to be completed in September.

We discussed putting the report on the web site but chose to wait until the drawings are completed to get a near final report available. We expect to have that done by Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Status of Interactions**

Mike Hightower discussed the meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup> with Alamogordo representatives and Steve Traver from Rep. Skeen's office and David Myers from Sen. Domenici's office. Steve and David talked about their bill to fund the development of a portable desal system for the Marines. The system is to use existing desal technology and develop a prototype system in the next 24 months. They would like to use the Tularosa Basin Desal Research Facility to test a wide range of water qualities and then use the Alamogordo Desal Plant to conduct testing at high water flow rates. They are expecting about \$6M in funding for the project over three years and would be coordinated out of the Office of Naval Research.

Mike was asked to give a brief overview of the Tularosa Basin Research Facility study and background on when the facility could be up and running and the type of research that would be conducted. Based on this short presentation, a reporter prepared an article that came out Friday August 30<sup>th</sup> in the Alamogordo paper, and was subsequently picked up by AP and was in the EI Paso, Albuquerque, and Hobbs papers. The article was not bad, but it did have some inaccuracies, including that the facility would be operational in January 2003, when in reality if

the funding can be obtained construction will not start until January or February 2003. The Alamogordo Daily News articles on the DOD project and the Tularosa Basin Project are available off of their web at [www.alamogordoneews.com](http://www.alamogordoneews.com) . One was August 30<sup>th</sup>, the other Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Steve Easley mentioned that he had scheduled Sandia and BOR will give a formal presentation to the Alamogordo City Council on Tuesday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup> on the facility study status and facility overview. Steve also mentioned that he had set up for Sandia and the BOR to give a similar presentation to the two candidates for Congress for the Alamogordo area on the afternoon of Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Discussions of Site and Floor Plan Changes – John Layman**

Based on the discussions by the EC at the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the architect was to revise the site plan and floor plan and elevations for review on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. John Layman provided those updates on Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> and Mike sent them out to all of the EC members to review.

#### Site Layout

The EC recommended several changes to the updated layout. They included identifying the actual access road by name, more detail on the layout, and a review of the different features because the scales appeared wrong.

The EC also recommended that a new site layout of the well field be included as a new figure so that the well field location and pipeline right of ways can be identified and noted.

#### Floor Plan

John had mad some revisions on the entry and entry water feature, office space, flow of the work areas etc. General consensus was that the front features with a smaller water feature, some landscaping for shade, and a trellis feature allowed a better entrance and gathering area for the facility.

The floor plan changes appeared appropriate and were accepted with some minor modifications for egress and ingress issues.

#### Elevations

The elevations did not change much but there was still discussion of the suggested outside material. Several utility managers suggested that block provides the best long-term durability and looks better over longer periods. John had added a wainscoat of block to simulate that effect but thought that full block construction would add about \$125K to the building construction costs. It was decided to continue to review the issue as part of the design/build but prepare a artist's rendering with a color scheme that would not exclude the possibility of using block as an exterior building material.

#### NEPA

The next field work is scheduled for the week of Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. Del is working on the document.

### **Next Steps**

John will have the updated drawings completed by Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. These will be provided to the EC on the 19<sup>th</sup> for review with the final report through the WRRRI web site.

The next meeting of the EC will take place on Monday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at the WRRRI to finalize the report and to initiate the development of a design/build document.