

Vickie L. Gabin, Special Master
United States District Court
120 South Federal Place
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 955-0678 voice & facsimile

September 10, 2007

Bradley S. Bridgewater
U.S. Department of Justice
1961 Stout Street, 8th Floor
Denver, CO 80294

Jane Marx
2825 Candelaria NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107

Re: United States v. State of New Mexico, et al., No. 07cv0681
Zuni Indian Tribe Claims Proceeding

Dear Ms. Marx and Mr. Bridgewater:

As you know, the July 30, 2007, Preliminary Procedural and Scheduling Order for Subproceeding 1: The Adjudication of Zuni Indian Water Rights Claims, states that a planning and scheduling conference will be held Tuesday, November 27, 2007. Attendance for those individuals who intend to object to the water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe is mandatory.

The Notice of Expedited *Inter Se* Subproceeding for Subproceeding 1 which is being sent to all water rights owners/claimants provides a good deal of information about Subproceeding 1 and the rights and options of water rights owners. My experience in similar proceedings, however, has shown that even the most detailed explanation of legal proceedings may be insufficient to fully inform *pro se* defendants about a complex action. In addition to written materials, public meetings have been shown to provide useful background information to assist defendants in deciding whether to become involved in an expedited *inter se* proceeding. Because the November 27 planning and scheduling conference is not intended as a general informational session, I request that the two of you, with assistance of interested counsel, arrange for at least one public meeting in the Zuni Basin region before November 27. The meeting(s) should provide an explanation of the subproceeding and allow plenty of time for questions from the participants. Ideally, the meeting(s) should be held at least one week in advance of the conference.

We are in the process of arranging a venue for November 27. I plan to file the notice of the November 27 conference in mid- to late October, and could easily include information about the public meeting(s) with the notice. Please inform me as soon as possible about your arrangements.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Very truly yours,

Vickie L. Gabin

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