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Bradley S. Bridgewater
U.S. Department of Justice
South Terrace, Suite 370
999 18th St.
Denver, CO 80294

Edward Bagley
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P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Counsel of Record

Re: United States v. A & R Productions, No. 01cv072

Dear Mr. Bridgewater and Mr. Bagley,

Thank you for your February 28, 2011, Status Report re: Subfiles Ready for a Pretrial Conference (Docket No. 2636). I understand your rationale for requesting that any Rule 16 pretrial conferences be scheduled seriatim, given case demands in other adjudications.

I propose that we proceed instead with a scheduling and procedural conference, which would require little preparation on the part of counsel. As you recall, I held such a conference in the initial stages of setting up the Zuni Indian Claims Subproceeding.¹ At that conference, water rights claimants who filed notices of intent to participate in the subproceeding received information about the process, and their legal responsibilities should they decide to continue in the case. I believe the conference was useful for the objectors, and important for the court and parties in identifying those who were serious about moving forward.

The order setting this scheduling conference would be sent to the claimants named in the February 28 status report, and any other claimants identified by the State and United States. Attendance for claimants and their attorneys (if they've retained counsel) would be mandatory. I'd like to set the conference for sometime in the second half of May, in Albuquerque. By copy of this letter, I request that involved counsel submit dates they are available; an e-mail to the address above will be sufficient.

¹ See, Paragraph 9 of the Preliminary Procedural and Scheduling Order; Subproceeding 1; The Adjudication of Zuni Indian Water Rights Claims (July 30, 2007, Docket No. 1188).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

/electronic signature/
Vickie L. Gabin