

HENNINGSON, DURHAM & RICHARDSON, INC.

Memorandum

To: Karl, Bill, Jim, Pete & File

From: John Horst *JPH*

Subject: State and EPA Meeting on

Date: 7/17/79

Grand Junction/Mesa County

The meeting was held today in response to Jeb Love's interoffice memorandum of May 25, 1979 which addresses ammonia toxicity, salinity, and the combined sewer system. The meeting convened at 2:00 p.m. in the EPA offices on the sixth floor of the Lincoln Tower with the following attendance:

EPA: Jim Brooks, Construction Grants
Melissa Lamberton, Construction Grants
Bob Shankland, Permits
Martha Rosenberg, Project Officer
Bill Rothenmeyer, Project Officer

State: Ron Schuyler
Jeb Love

HDR: John Horst

Jeb opened by stressing that the State's major concern for this project is the lack of an operating authority for the wastewater program. This is a matter for which the City and County should negotiate a formal agreement posthaste.

A discussion ensued on the background of the project to date and any areas requiring additional study. EPA staff suggested a Sewer System Evaluation Survey and Endangered Species Study. Bob cautioned that the project could be "studied to death" without resultant benefits to which all parties agreed. Since the State feels the original 201 Facility Plan, Infiltration/Inflow Analysis is inadequate, Jeb said a Survey is needed to establish the cost-effectiveness of combined sewer separation and rehabilitation. Consequently, the State and EPA agreed to require a Survey and reject any study on endangered species. The Survey is not to interfere with the current design of the plant and interceptor sewers.

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EPA concluded that the new plant design should be based on treating dry weather flows and a portion of the combined flows with excess I/I discharged to the Colorado River at the existing plant site. The City and County should also implement a phased separation program for the combined sewer system.

Bob said salinity can be adequately addressed, in regard to the Negative Declaration for the project, if the City and County quantify present levels in the system and document that no industrial users are contributing salinity to the system.

Engineering Science (ES) released their preliminary report on background ammonia in the Colorado River. Jeb said ES has made a preliminary recommendation for ammonia removal at the new plant since the instream concentration of NH_3 was measured at 0.02 mg/l. The State's adopted water quality standards have now set the instream toxic level of NH_3 at 0.06 mg/l. Bob indicated that EPA's Tom Willingham will have to review the data before EPA takes a position on ammonia removal at the new plant. This could be a case of the State versus EPA for a decision. Therefore, HDR is to continue the plant design for secondary treatment with provisions for nitrification.

In conclusion, the State will notify the City and County in writing about these issues within the next few weeks; HDR will be copied.

After the meeting, Jeb said he will initiate plans for another meeting as soon as next week between the State, EPA, City and HDR to discuss grant eligibility for the interim treatment plant and other facilities. Jeb also indicated that the City and County should have already applied for a discharge permit for the new plant.