

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dallin Jensen  
FROM: Donald Norseth  
DATE: September 16, 1976  
RE: Duchesne River Distribution  
Response to the Bureau of Indian Affairs

In the memorandum from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to William R. McConkie of the Regional Solicitor's Office, they requested answers to three questions from us in regards to Court Order No. 3070.

Question 1: The 1976 duty schedule does not define the point on the Duchesne River at which the total divertable flow will be measured. A statement is made that on July 13, 1976, the flow was 688 second-feet. Where was this measurement taken?

The 1976 duty schedule does not specify a measurement point on the Duchesne River as it was developed on a divertable flow basis. This type of approach makes full use of the available water including the return flow and stream accretion. The 688 second-feet referred to in the order reflects a summation of ditches into which water was being delivered.

Question 2: No mention is made in the court order in regards to water quality. The salt content at the lower reaches of the river becomes quite high toward the end of the irrigation season. What provision is to be made for additional water to flush the lower end of the river to improve water quality?

The quality of the waters of the Duchesne River diminishes in the Myton area as river flow decreases. This was not treated in the court order as the order was a measure to provide assistance and a vehicle for the commissioner to distribute the water for the remainder of 1976 when the water supply is inadequate to meet the demand.

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Question 3: Since the court order concerns all irrigation users, it appears an almost impossible task for the water commissioner to administer the curtailing of water rights in inverse order of priority during periods of low flow.

The court order provides maximum and minimum flow limits correlating with the divertable flow. This allows the commissioner to curtail later priorities and re-introduce them to distribution as the Duchesne River stream flow varies.

In regards to Paragraph 5, the commissioner can make the distribution of water on divertable flow taking into account quantity. Quality is another item and is not considered in the present distribution practices.

In Paragraph 6 the divertable flow is obtained by the summation of diversions which could be correlated with monitoring stations as suggested; but this would greatly add to the cost of distribution as the stations would only serve as a guide for specified reaches of the river and would require the installation of perhaps three or four additional gaging stations.

DCN/mnt