

The Land Reclamation Report

Roberts Construction gets \$16.4 contract

The Water and Power Resources Service has awarded a \$16.4 million contract to Roberts Construction Company of Denver to build four pumping plants between Pueblo and Colorado Springs, Colorado. This represents the largest contract ever awarded to a minority-owned firm by the Interior Department.

The four pumping plants are part of the Fountain Valley Conduit System, which will carry water from Pueblo Reservoir to the Colorado Springs area. Other communities to be served by the conduit area are Stratmoor Hills, Security, Widefield, and Fountain. The plants are expected to be completed in November 1982, and water from the conduit is scheduled to be delivered early in 1983.

The Fountain Valley Conduit is part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, which provides water for irrigation,

recreation, power generation, and fish and wildlife, in addition to municipal and industrial purposes.

Environmental impact statement issued

The Water and Power Resources Service has filed with the Environmental Protection Agency a draft environmental impact statement on the administration of the acreage limitation provisions of reclamation law.

The draft statement briefly describes the legislative history of the Reclamation Act of 1902, which established a policy of Federal assistance through irrigation development for farming on land in the arid West. The statement examines the effectiveness of present administrative practices and three alternative methods of administering the law. It also examines two options that would allow individual districts to pay the full cost of the Federally developed water in exchange for program

deregulation.

Individual copies of the draft statement are available at regional offices of the Water and Power Resources Service or: Director, Office of Environmental Affairs, Room 7622, Water and Power Resources Service, 18th and E Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20240, 202/343-4991.

Wyoming to regulate mining on Federal land

Wyoming's Governor Ed Herschler and former Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus signed a cooperative agreement to regulate surface coal mining on Federal lands within the state's boundaries.

This agreement is in accordance with the permanent regulatory program prescribed by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. It means that the state assumes primary responsibility for regulation and reclamation of surface mining on Federal, privately owned, and other lands, and the Interior's Office of Surface Mining will function only in an oversight capacity within Wyoming.

"The new agreement eliminates duplication of regulatory control and allows for uniform application of the permanent regulatory program throughout the state," Andrus said.

The Secretary also approved the Kansas regulatory program for surface coal mining and reclamation. The state has agreed to make changes to correct several minor problems as a condition of the approval.

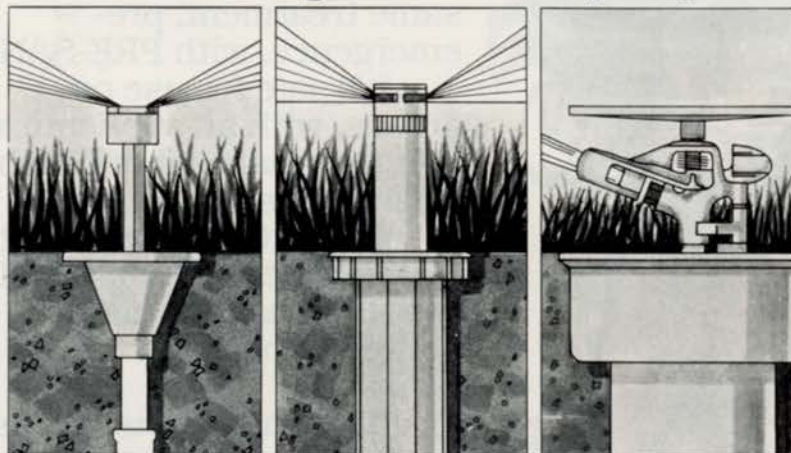
Peer review amendment added to FIFRA

Congress passed the 1980 amendments to the FIFRA bill (H.R. 7018) in December.

The bill itself extended the funding authority for EPA to operate pesticide control programs through September 30, 1981. An amendment directs EPA to set up formal procedures for "peer review" by independent scientists on major scientific studies which are used as the basis of EPA regulatory actions.

Other provisions of the bill are authority for a two-house Congressional veto of future EPA regulations dealing with pesticides, and authority for expedited judicial review of any future attempt to challenge the constitutionality of the Congressional veto provision.

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