Conditional Start for Animas-La Plata Project

A conditional "new start" for the long-awaited Animas-La Plata Project has been enacted by Public Law HR 2577 signed by the President on August 15, 1985, it was announced by Wes Hirschi, Acting Regional Director of the Bureau of Reclamation.

"If an acceptable cost sharing agreement with non-Federal entities can be made by June 30, 1986, a sum of $1 million will be available to begin preconstruction work," Hirschi added.

The required cost-sharing arrangement must be worked out between the States of Colorado, New Mexico, and the Federal Government, and must be approved by the Secretary of Interior before the stated deadline. A subcommittee, within an ongoing Indian water rights negotiating team, has been established to write out details of the agreement and will be chaired by Mike Clinton, representative of the Assistant Secretary of Interior for Water and Science, and will have members from both concerned states.

In various stages of planning for over 80 years, the Animas-La Plata Project would utilize available flows of the Animas River for the cities of Durango, CO; and Farmington, Aztec, and Bloomfield, NM. It would provide irrigation water for land in the LaPlata River area and would supply industrial water for use by the