

Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
March 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Oversight Hearing

*Examining the Department of the Interior's Spending Priorities and the President's Fiscal Year
2021 Budget Proposal*

Questions from Rep. Bishop for Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget at the U.S. Department of the Interior

1. Please provide the Committee with the status of the Crow Tribe's water rights settlement projects, including the project facilities for which design work is completed, and Reclamation's anticipated construction schedule for the projects, since Reclamation has taken over the engineering and contracting functions for the projects under the terms of its September 6, 2019 Memorandum of Agreement with the Crow Tribe.
2. Are there non-federal contractors, including engineering firms, that are owed money for work on the Crow Tribe's water settlement projects? Is this affecting the design work or other work which the Tribe and Reclamation can use to move forward on these projects? If so, how does the Department intend to work with the Tribe to resolve this issue.
3. The 2010 Settlement Act allows the Crow Tribe's water projects to be indexed for inflation based on certain construction indices. How much have the authorization ceilings on these projects risen since FY 2016, the last year for which there was a signed Annual Funding Agreement? Is there, or will there be, an AFA for Fiscal Year 2020? If so, please provide the Committee with a copy of that AFA.
4. The administration has proposed the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund, citing about \$18 billion in deferred maintenance. Is the Bureau of Reclamation included in this figure?
 - a. If Yes, Why is the Bureau of Reclamation not included among the recipients of this Fund?
 - b. If No, What was the rationale behind excluding Reclamation facilities?