

Zuni's Twin Towers



While the old tower is still in service, a new communications tower serving Zuni Pueblo is erected. See Page 3.

Construction Budget Decreases in FY 2009

Planning Now Key to Replacement Schools Progress

OFMC construction budgets are returning to their FY 2001 levels, which will allow for funding of one or two replacement schools each year.

In the last six years, increased funding for the BIA's Education Replacement School Construction Program has resulted in a significant workload for OFMC. During this time, OFMC completed 20 replacement schools, with 13 in construction or awaiting the awarding of construction funds, and five schools in planning and design—an average of over 7 replacement school projects annually. Meanwhile, with increased funding for major improvement projects, OFMC initiated 48 major projects, with 29 projects completed, 12 in construction or awaiting the awarding of construction funds and seven in planning and design. Even with the success of reducing the number of schools in poor condition, 70 schools still need help.

"There's satisfaction in knowing that many thousands of Indian children are, or will soon be, educated in new facilities, and that OFMC did not have to increase its staff size to handle the enormous increase in construction funding and the resulting school projects," said OFMC Deputy Director Boyd Robinson. "Yet, we still have children learning in schools that are in poor condition. With lower school construction budgets, OFMC is refocused on master planning. If funding increases again, we will be prepared to continue to address improving Indian school conditions."

A Paschal Sherman Indian School student is eager to get to his newly constructed school. See Page 2.

Tar Creek Tornado Storm Hampers Environmental Clean Up

The Tar Creek abandoned mine Superfund Site located near the Eastern Oklahoma home of the Quapaw Tribe and upstream from 10 other tribes has been a potential source of lead exposure. Elevated blood lead levels above state and national averages have been attributed to the mine tailings leaching into surface and groundwater.

The Record of Decision for Operable Unit 4, which includes the mine tailing piles, was signed in February 2008, and extensive soil and water clean up efforts have since been underway, with the EPA completing initial disposal pilot projects. The EPA encouraged sale of the tailings for encapsulated use in asphalt and concrete construction. The BIA and Indian Health Service continue to inform tribal members of the soil and water clean up progress and preventative health measures, respectively.



Viewing tornado damage to an Oklahoma residential area, which is near a pile of mine tailings (in the background), are Eastern Oklahoma Regional Environmental Scientist Bob Coleman (left), OFECR Director Jack Rever and Regional Environmental Protection Specialist Jonna Polk.

Earlier this year, a tornado severely damaged nearby residences and passed between two of the large chat piles, scattering material out of both piles. As a result, the U.S. Geologic Service has been requested to reassess the amount of material in the piles.

Briefs

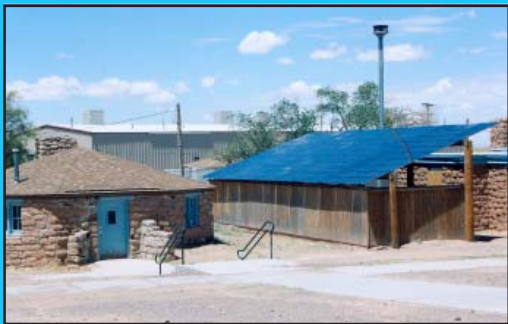


8grandcanyonnews.com

The flood waters roaring over Havasu Falls devastated the Havasupai Tribe's campground.

August's Grand Canyon Flooding Skips BIA Facilities

Severe flooding in the bottom of the Grand Canyon forced the evacuation of Supai Village and tribal campground but spared four BIA facilities there. Two employee housing units (four-plexes), the detention facility and the school were not affected by the August flooding. However, the tribally owned and operated campground near Havasu Falls was devastated.



A hogan flanks the solar panel at Seba Dalkai Boarding School in Arizona.

Seba Dalkai Solar Panel Reconnected to School

Seba Dalkai Boarding School's solar power panel will again be used to add 5 kW (per sun/hr) of electrical power to the school. The solar panel was disconnected when the Arizona replacement school was constructed in the 1990s. OFMC's Energy Program has contracted with Sacred Power Corporation of Albuquerque, N.M., to reconnect the panel this year.

Administrator Recalls How A New School Inspires

I have a story I would like to tell that I was blessed with. One cold, dark, wet and rainy Monday morning just after our new school opened, I was on my way to work. I noticed a young kid running down the road. He stuck his arm out like he was thumbing for a ride as he kept running. I stopped and waited for him to get in my vehicle. I asked him where he was going, and he said to the new BIA Paschal Sherman Indian School but that he had missed the bus. I told him, you know it's about six miles up to the school, and he said, "yes," but because he had missed the bus, he was going to run all the way to school. He said he was seven years old and lived with his older sister because his father just passed away earlier that year. On his own, he was going to make it to school that day. Actually, he didn't miss the bus but was one hour early because his sister forgot to turn her clock back to keep pace with the time changing that weekend. I brought him up to school and let his bus driver as well as family members know where he was at. It warms my heart to remember that day and how much the new school meant to that young student.



Paschal Sherman Indian School in Omak, Wash.

*- Virgil Marchand, acting Planning Director,
The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation*

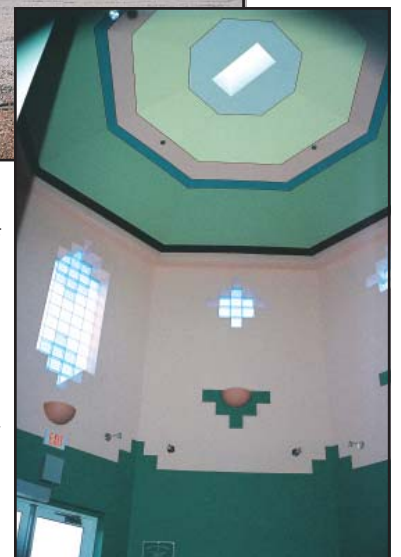


Winslow Residential Hall Ready for New School Year



The exterior color scheme of the Winslow Residential Hall is also evident in its rotunda (below).

The new Winslow Residential Hall will house 160 students who attend the nearby state of Arizona public schools. The dormitory's front entrance features a traditional hogan design and the exterior and interior colors reflect those found in the nearby Painted Desert areas. The dormitory's indoor recreation space is about the size of half a basketball court. The OFMC Project Manager is Andy Acoya of Laguna Pueblo.



Complete renovation

Temporary Twin Towers at Zuni Pueblo Leads to Improved Communication Tower Site

The May remediation of the Zuni Pueblo communications tower site was the most extensive tower renovation project undertaken by the BIA's national communications improvement project. While other sites have required partial remediation, the Zuni Pueblo site in New Mexico required a total replacement. At one point during the Zuni remediation, the old and the new radio towers were standing side-by-side so that communications services would not be interrupted.

Following a Department of the Interior site condition assessment in 2006, OFMC began the remediation of all safety and physical plant deficiencies at BIA-owned communication tower locations, many of which are on remote mountain tops and hills across Indian Country. The remediation began with work in the Southwest and Western Regions and will soon include the Navajo Region. The 2006 assessment resulted in a report which identified specific tower infrastructure deficiencies, including the scope and estimated cost of correction. The deficiencies currently are listed as deferred maintenance backlogs in FMIS and represent a nationwide need.

The goal of the effort is to eliminate serious life/safety deficiencies at the communication tower locations, provide functional facilities, and ensure a safe working environment for maintenance personnel. The tower sites serve a number of BIA and BIE programs. The Office of Justice Services communications network will also benefit from the remediation work.



On a ridge overlooking Zuni Pueblo in New Mexico, workers assemble the new communications tower, which has a more substantial base (below left) than the old tower (below right).



KinLani Dorm Operating in Flagstaff

Jeehdeez'a Academy Opens at Low Mountain



Left above: The cultural room in the KinLani Bordertown Dormitory in Flagstaff, Ariz. The old dorms have been torn down, while the old cafeteria/recreation building remains. The OFMC Project Manager is Andy Acoya of Laguna Pueblo.



Bottom: Visitors enjoy the August opening of Jeehdeez'a Academy in Low Mountain, Ariz. The OFMC Project Manager is Phil Sarracino of Laguna Pueblo.



In its space reduction efforts, OFMC has attained its Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) goals each year since FY 2005, by reducing the excess BIA-owned academic space from inventory by 300,000 square feet a year. Forecasts and actual space reduction figures for FY 2008 show a likelihood of similar compliance with GPRA. When BIA-owned General Administration and Public Safety and Justice facilities are included, the space reduction forecast for FY 2008 should total approximately 674,000 square feet—or 144 structures.

Right-Sizing BIA Facilities

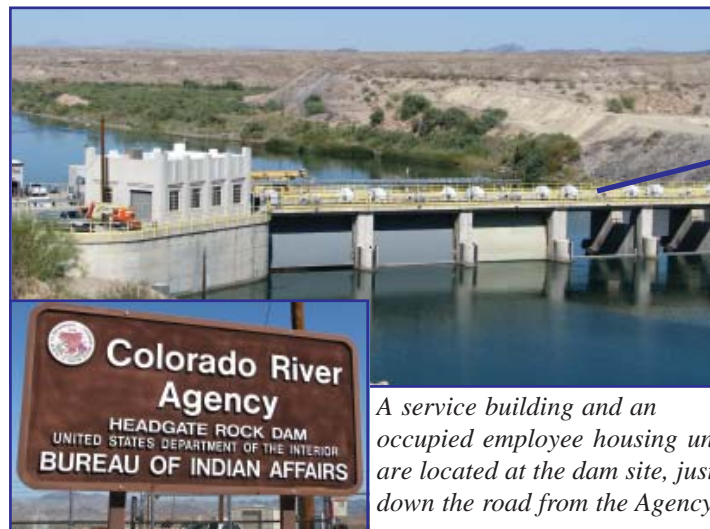
Through its Asset Management Plan (AMP), OFMC is complying with Executive Order 13327 and is working with the Federal Real Property Council to promote efficient and economical use of the Federal Government's real property assets. OFMC's Space Reduction Program utilizes a number of approaches to help the Bureau of Indian Affairs reduce its inventory of excess space. The current five-year plan, ending in 2013, shows a total anticipated space reduction of 1.7 million square feet—representing 499 structures—of BIA-owned facilities.

The Space Reduction Program is operated by OFMC in cooperation with the Regional Facility Managers who assist in prioritizing demolition projects in their Regions. Transfer of vacant facilities to tribal governments can be in the best interest of the Government. The Bureau removes hazardous building materials such as friable asbestos prior to transfer. Following transfer, the facility no longer receives Operations & Maintenance funding from OFMC.

Across Indian Country there are some Government facilities for which preservation is no longer economically feasible. These structures may have little historical significance or may not be structurally restorable. So with tribal and state Historic Preservation Office agreement, often the most advantageous decision regarding the building is to have the OFMC Space Reduction Program provide funds to document the historical significance and demolish it. If a tribe is not interested in acquiring the facility and renovation is not feasible, timely demolition can alleviate health/safety risks caused by the structure standing vacant.



Colorado River Agency Facility Manager Steve McVey could transfer this unused water tower, but he says the tribe isn't interested in acquiring it. The water tower doesn't draw O&M funding from OFMC. The vacant house belongs to the tribe.



A service building and an occupied employee housing unit are located at the dam site, just down the road from the Agency.

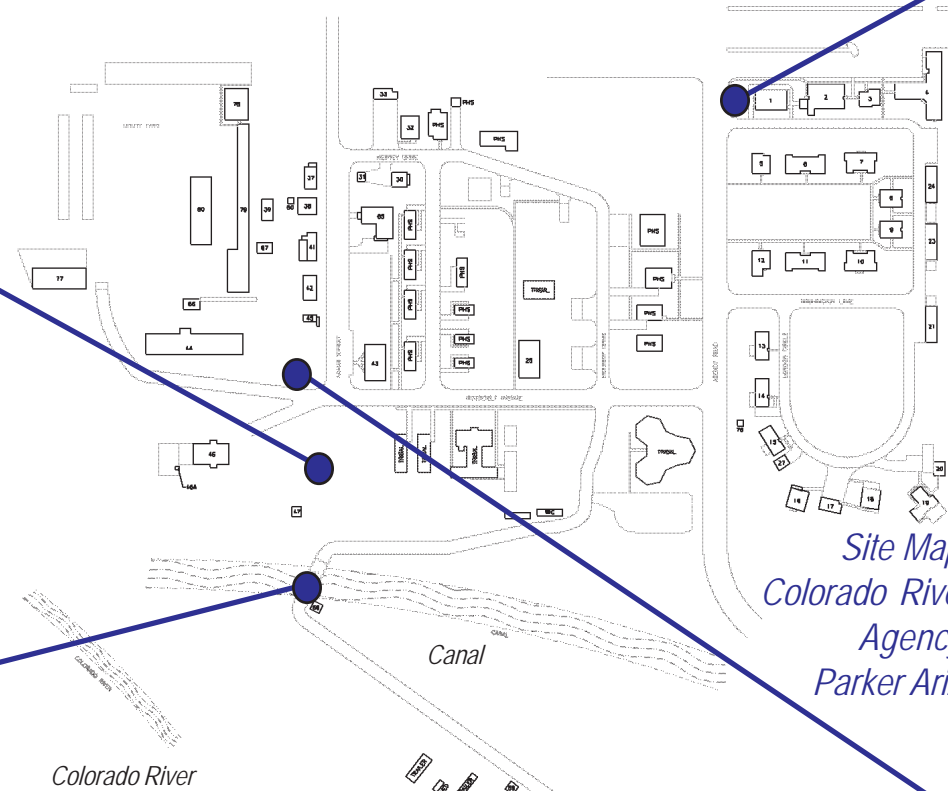
Fort Mojave Tribe Gets Wildlands Fire Building

A former BIA Wildlands Fire Station, located on the



Fort Mojave Indian Reservation in Arizona, was transferred to the Fort Mojave Tribe earlier this year, effectively ending its O&M funding from OFMC. It was the only BIA building on the reservation, which is located across the Colorado River from Needles, Calif., and was serviced by the BIA's Colorado River Agency in Parker, Ariz.

Colorado River Agency Transfers Fire Building to Tribe, Demolishes Unused Shed



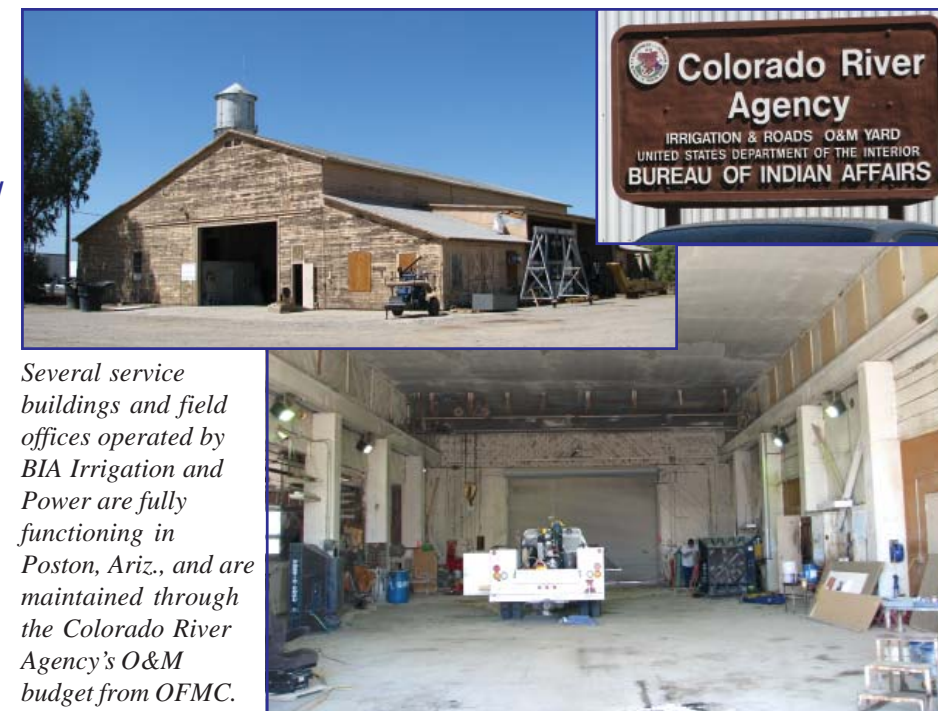
Site Map: Colorado River Agency, Parker, Ariz.



Colorado River Agency headquarters buildings were constructed as administration offices for a WWII War Relocation Authority Camp for Japanese-Americans. The BIA refurbished the buildings several years ago.

A desert wind in April 2007 helped the Colorado River Agency speed up its demolition of Building No. 44, an unused storage shed which had spent a long time on the OFMC Space Reduction Backlog. Because the winds tore the roof off the building, OFMC used Emergency funds to demolish it, after the required environmental assessment. When the demolition was completed in August 2008, the demolished material was taken to a certified landfill. The Agency still has 30 structures and 29 employee housing units in Parker, Ariz., which receive O&M funding from OFMC.

Poston, Arizona, Irrigation & Roads Yard Uses Its Buildings



Several service buildings and field offices operated by BIA Irrigation and Power are fully functioning in Poston, Ariz., and are maintained through the Colorado River Agency's O&M budget from OFMC.



Focus

“Whole Person” Keeps Healthy in Gymnasiums



The new gym at Leupp Schools, Inc., in Arizona.

OFMC works with tribal school boards in planning for new facilities, including gymnasiums. Planners keep in mind 25 CFR Ch.1 Part 32, BIE’s Mission Statement: “The Bureau shall manifest consideration of the whole person, taking into account the spiritual, mental, physical and cultural aspects of the person.”

Based on student counts and age ranges, OFMC uses guidelines in its School Facilities Design Handbook to establish the size and features of a new facility’s gymnasium or recreation space. For example, elementary schools have “recreation spaces” that generally would not have wood floors and off-reservation dormitories similarly have recreation spaces rather than a full gymnasium.



The half court recreation space at the new Winslow Residential Hall in Arizona.

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First-Ever BIA School Renewed at Leupp Schools, Inc.

Some 150 years ago, the BIA built its very first school at what came to be known as Leupp, Ariz. Now a 73,000 square foot school and 22,000 square foot dormitory will open in the 2008-2009 school year just up the hill from the initial school site. The OFMC Project Manager is Phil Sarracino a member of Laguna Pueblo.



The new Leupp cafeteria looks out on the domed library building, which was preserved from the previous campus.



A hogan is situated next to the Leupp dormitory, which will house 276 students.



Students stream into their new school moments after 2008-2009 Pine Country Flagstaff Pro Rodeo Queen Adrianna McCabe cuts the ribbon (right), concluding the July festivities.



Water/Energy Audit

Eight Schools in Great Plains and Midwest Regions Reviewed for Possible Energy Use Recommissioning

Eight schools showing high energy usage, according to their energy use reporting in FMIS, will receive energy/water use audits through OFMC’s Energy Program. The goal is to optimize the performance of existing building systems, identify problems to be corrected, and educate facility staff in using fault detection diagnostic concepts. In some cases, improving energy use could come from changing system configurations or replacing equipment. The Midwest Region schools are Flandreau Indian Boarding School in South Dakota; Nay-Ah-Shing and Fond du Lac Ojibwe schools in Minnesota; and Hannahville Indian School in Michigan. The Great Plains Region schools are Mandaree Day School in North Dakota and Tiospaye Topa School, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School and Pierre Indian Learning Center in South Dakota.

Rethinking Facilities Management Business Process

An analysis will be conducted of OFMC by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs to improve current business processes staffing levels and outputs by utilizing Business Process Reengineering (BPR). The analysis will assess the current state of OFMC, including current workload levels, resource levels, and processes. The goal is to create a “future” OFMC that is reengineered to include current information technology, skill sets, work competencies and management procedures.

The benefit to the BIA from the BPR review can be:

- A streamlined/consolidated organization taking advantage of shared skill sets.
- Improved services as a result of examining and applying new ways to conduct business that focus on the customer.
- An organization centered around processes, outcomes, and performance, not tasks and departments.
- The involvement and buy-in of the current workforce in the design of verifiable and measurable process improvements.
- Cost savings reinvested into mission-essential services.
- A change in the way the employees are evaluated and rewarded.
- Assurance that cost-effective services will still be provided by Bureau employees rather than out-sourced at a higher cost.

“OFMC will benefit from using this up-to-date business analysis technique to improve services,” said OFMC Deputy Director Boyd Robinson. “We want to weed out inefficiencies and build in effectiveness.”

Ojo Encino Renderings Draw Light Into Day School

Construction of a 60,000 square foot replacement campus for the Ojo Encino Day School in New Mexico will get underway later this year. The new K-8 school is designed for 280 students and replaces the old school which began in a trailer in 1952. Permanent buildings were added in 1965 and 1985. The OFMC Project Manager is Andy Robinson, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.



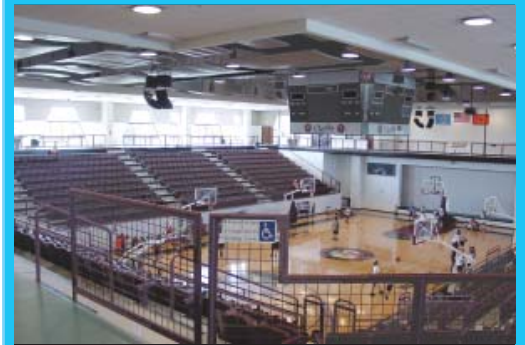
Renderings of the proposed Ojo Encino Day School in New Mexico reveal an extensive use of daylight compared to the existing school.



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Frequently tribal communities gather in their school gymnasiums, where everything from team sports to weddings and funerals are held, and to increase a gym’s capacity and features, tribes have the option of augmenting the construction and operations budget for their gymnasiums.

That’s how Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah, Okla., gained its gymnasium, which seats 1,275 for basketball games. It has four classrooms that can be combined into a function/banquet space and features a full kitchen. The gym meets collegiate requirements for athletic events and hosts many Oklahoma district tournaments.



The Sequoyah High School gymnasium in Oklahoma.

About nine years ago, school and Cherokee Nation officials decided that the BIA-funded gym they were about to build would be too small to meet the seating demands of the high school’s fan base, according to Sequoyah High School Superintendent Gina Stanley. “We knew our community needed a larger gymnasium because we were renting large facilities in Muskogee and still had to turn fans away,” she said, adding that the tribe annually supplements the operations and maintenance funding for the additional square footage and for the week end community events at the gym.



The Sequoyah High School gymnasium.

Two Schools Celebrate Turtle Mountain High School and Ojibwa Millennium School in Belcourt, N.D., Open

Photos from JLG Architects.



Ojibwa is a K-12 school for 553 students.

Grand opening ceremonies for two replacement schools serving the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe in Belcourt, N.D.,

were held on the same day in August. The replacement school for the Ojibwa Millennium School is nearly 127,000 square feet, while a few miles away, the replacement school for Turtle Mountain High



Turtle Mountain High School was constructed for 572 students.

School is over 126,000 square feet, including maintenance shops.



Photos from KKE Architects.



Ojibwa Millennium School Principal Mike Blue and his son, Landon, cut the ribbon.



Left: Former Tribal Chairman Ken W. Davis is assisted on the podium.



BIE Line Officer Rosie Davis, OFMC Supervisory General Engineer Emerson Eskeets, Tribal Councilman Stuart LaFontaine and Belcourt School Superintendent Viola LaFontaine snip the ribbon to Turtle Mountain High School.

Photos by The Times' Logan Davis

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