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## Comments from the Solicitor, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D.C., Hillary Tompkins

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legislation regarding that allocation of water under the compact without fear of the Dormant Commerce Clause control. In Mr. DuMars opinion, this includes reasonable limitations upon the export of water.

*Ryan McLane*

COMMENTS FROM THE SOLICITOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR,  
WASHINGTON, D.C., HILLARY TOMPKINS

Solicitor Tompkins was a stay-at-home mother, who was teaching part-time in a law school when Ken Salazar offered her a position as the Solicitor in the U.S. Department of Interior. Tompkins was born in Zuni, New Mexico on the Navajo Nation Reservation. However, Tompkins was adopted by a non-native American family and grew up in New Jersey. She did not meet her Navajo family until she was fifteen years old.

Tompkins finds her experience as a child telling in terms of the impact that the policies of the Department of the Interior have on peoples' lives. Tompkins noted that her life has been a direct product of Federal Indian Policy. Federal Indian Policy also allowed her to receive a great education at excellent schools under the Navajo Nation Scholarship.

Tompkins started her career representing Pueblo Indians in New Mexico in water law proceedings. It was then that she gained the appreciation for water law. She discussed the need to balance complexities in the practice of water law including the unpredictability of mother nature; the unpredictability of the courts; the lengthy process of adjudicating water rights; the challenge of unadjudicated water rights; the history of agriculture in the western United States; the history of Indian water rights; the Endangered Species Act; the Clean Water Act; and the role of the federal government on interstate rivers. However, Tompkins offered one unifying message: "Water is the Core of Our Survival."

Tompkins spoke of her experience in the Department of Interior, and she praised Ken Salazar as being very enthusiastic, with a vision to implement change. She discussed several issues the department is currently addressing, including impacts of climate change, adaptive management, ecosystem restoration, and new energy projects. She stated that the department and the Solicitor's Office are working to become more engaged across disciplines.

Overall, Tompkins' message was that things are changing at the federal level, and she extended an invitation to everyone to work together to find opportunities to ensure the availability of our natural resources for future generations

*Kathlyn Bullis*