RECLAMATION AWARDS $1.2 MILLION CONTRACT TO COMPLETE
BLUE MESA POWERPLANT, COLORADO

The Department of the Interior reported today that the Eagle Construction
Corporation, Loveland, Colorado, has been awarded a $1,245,423 Bureau of
Reclamation contract to complete construction of Blue Mesa Powerplant and to
construct Blue Mesa Switchyard, on the Gunnison River in western Colorado.

Both are features of the Curecanti Unit of Reclamation's Colorado River
Storage Project, one of the four major storage units in the five-State program
for developing the water resources of the upper Colorado River Basin.

Second low bidder under Specification No. DC-6342 was Tide-Bay, Inc.,
Tacoma, Washington, at $1,342,843. Third low at $1,495,813 was the joint venture
of Basic Engineering and Construction Co., Inc., Cache Valley Electric Co., and
Detweiler Bros. Inc., of Logan, Utah.

The Eagle firm will complete all concrete work and architectural finishes
for the powerplant, and will furnish and install all metalwork, heating and air
conditioning systems, and plumbing. Other powerplant work under the contract
includes installing turbines and auxiliary hydraulic equipment and electrical
and fire protection equipment. Switchyard work includes earthwork for grading
and surfacing the switchyard area and access roads, constructing concrete founda-
tions, furnishing and erecting steel structures, and performing all work required
to complete electrical installations in the switchyard.

The contractor is allowed 545 days to complete the work, which is expected
to generate about 70 man-years of employment at the contract site and an equal
amount of employment elsewhere in the manufacture and furnishing of materials
and equipment.

Blue Mesa Dam, now nearing completion, west of Gunnison, Colo., began
storing water on October 27, 1965. The powerplant is scheduled to go into opera-
tion in early 1967. When filled, Blue Mesa Reservoir will contain 940,800 acre-
feet of water. The powerplant will have a generating capacity of 60,000 kilowatts.

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