Glen Canyon Generators to be Uprated

Hydroelectric generators at Glen Canyon Dam will be modified to "uprate" their capacity, it was announced today by Clifford I. Barrett, Regional Director of the Bureau of Reclamation. In conjunction with the uprating, permission has been obtained from the Commissioner of Reclamation and the Secretary of the Interior to undertake studies on the current operation of Glen Canyon Dam to determine its environmental effect on the Grand Canyon.

Uprating the generators will raise the capability of each of the eight generators from about 144 megawatts to about 167 megawatts, or a total increase for the plant of 186 megawatts. Included in the term "uprating" are replacing or reinsulating the rotor windings, strengthening rotor arms and making other mechanical modifications. A contract to perform this work will be awarded in the near future.

Barrett stated that the additional plant capacity resulting from the uprating will be restricted to present maximum water releases of 31,500 cubic feet per second from the powerplant. This restriction on operation of the uprated generators will remain in effect until a decision process, with appropriate National Environmental Policy Act compliance, has been completed on a long-term operating criteria for Glen Canyon Powerplant. Coinciding with the modification will be the environmental studies in the Grand Canyon, to be undertaken in cooperation with the National Park Service.

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