Glen Canyon Releases Down, Repairs to Begin

Now that runoff into Lake Powell has begun to drop, a contractor has been called in to Glen Canyon Dam to repair the damage to the left spillway caused by record high releases, the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Colorado Regional Director Clifford Barrett announced today.

"Releases from the dam have been reduced from 92,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 85,000 cfs," Barrett stated. "Decreased inflows, which have dropped from 120,000 cfs to 108,000 cfs over the past 2 days is an encouraging sign that we have passed the peak flows," he said. "We are planning to have the contractor strengthen the flashboards above the four spillway gates during the remainder of the runoff period," he added. The flashboards were installed initially to help store the waters, along with raising the spillway gates, to an elevation of 3,708 feet above sea level.

The contractor will begin immediately to strengthen the flashboards. "By strengthening and enlarging the flashboards, we will be better able to coordinate operations at both Lake Powell and Lake Mead, minimize any further damage to the spillways, and start repair work much sooner," Barrett said. Repairing the left spillway, which has been damaged by cavitation and erosion from the high releases, will commence as soon as the spillway gates can be closed. The right spillway also will be checked for any damage. And, aeration slots will be installed to minimize future erosion problems. The spillway repair work will be completed before next year's runoff.

"Although significant damage has occurred in the left spillway, nothing has happened which would prevent us from continuing to operate the dam in a safe manner," Barrett said.