Releases at Flaming Gorge to Increase

Beginning May 1, 1984, releases from Flaming Gorge Dam will increase by 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the bypass tubes, it was announced today by Upper Colorado Regional Director Clifford Barrett of the Bureau of Reclamation. Additional 1,000 cfs increments may be added later depending on runoff forecasts.

The powerplant will continue operating at full capacity with releases of 4,000 cfs into the river. Therefore, the total releases into the river during May will be about 5,000 cfs to 8,000 cfs.

The reservoir has been lowered 18 feet in preparation for spring runoff. The purpose for the increased releases is to insure that the reservoir does not completely fill so that a contract to repair the spillway can proceed without interruption. Construction of an access road to the spillway tunnel to facilitate the repair work will commence in late May. Once the access road is in place, the bypass tubes cannot be used or the road will be washed out. Hence, we need to bypass water now to avoid having that occur.