RECLAMATION CONTRACT AWARDED FOR COLLBRAN PROJECT, COLORADO, POWERPLANTS

A $2,425,247 Bureau of Reclamation contract for construction of the Upper and Lower Molina Powerplants and other related features of the Collbran Project in west-central Colorado has been authorized for award, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The contract will go to the Refinery Engineering Company, a division of Vitro Corporation of America, Farmington, New Mexico, which was low among 11 bidders.

Commissioner of Reclamation Floyd E. Dominy said that the job calls for the construction of two concrete powerhouses, seven miles of steel penstocks from 2½ to 4 feet in diameter, installation of turbines, generators and other equipment to be furnished by the Government, and construction of several other appurtenant features including an access road and a small equalizing reservoir.

The Collbran Project is east of Grand Junction, near the town of Collbran, Colorado. Vega Dam, the principal feature of the project, and some other features are already under construction. The project will supply irrigation water to 2,310 acres to be irrigated and provide supplemental irrigation water to 18,340 acres now irrigated. The two powerplants, with static heads of 2,800 and 1,600 feet, have respective capacities of 8,400 kilowatts at the Upper Molina plant and 4,600 kilowatts at the lower plant.

Invitations have been issued for construction of about 11½ miles of 18- to 33-inch concrete or steel pipelines to bring water from the future Bonham Reservoir and the existing Cottonwood Reservoir several miles southeast of the powerplants. These pipelines will have their juncture at the head of the 2½-mile penstock of the Upper Molina plant.

Second low bidder for the present job was Davis & Butler Construction Company of Salt Lake City, Utah, with an offer of $2,449,557. Third low was the $2,524,652 bid of Bushman Construction Company of St. Joseph, Missouri. Bids ranged to a high of $3,427,804.

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