RECLAMATION AWARDS $4.6 MILLION CONTRACT FOR EASTERN COLORADO PROJECT COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel announced today that a $4,600,000 contract has been awarded for the replacement of the communication system which controls the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado-Big Thompson Project in eastern Colorado.

The contract was awarded to Rockwell International of Richardson, Texas.

The communication system will enable an operator at the Flatiron Complex near Loveland, Colorado, to control five dams and powerplants and two pumping plants situated on both sides of the Continental Divide. The new link will also allow remote control of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project's Mt. Elbert Pumped-Storage Powerplant near Leadville. Voice communication between all facilities and the Eastern Colorado Projects Office in Loveland will be possible with the new system.

Facilities serviced by the communication system will include Pole Hill, Big Thompson, Estes, and Mary's Lake Powerplants; Shadow Mountain and Olympus Dams; Green Mountain Powerplant and Dam; Willow Creek Dam and Pumping Plant and Granby Dam and Pumping Plant.

The contract covers the installation of communication equipment at the project office and at the central control facility. In addition, a series of microwave stations will be installed and 13 miles of fiber optic cable will be strung through the Alva B. Adams tunnel near Estes Park. The work is scheduled to be completed by October of 1988.

The new microwave system will replace an outmoded UHF radio system which had become unreliable for controlling the many facilities throughout the project area. The fiber optic cable will replace a powerline carrier system.
Commissioner of Reclamation C. Dale Duvall said, "The microwave and fiber optics communication system will enable the Bureau to operate the Colorado-Big Thompson Project's water and power facilities more efficiently and more reliably."

The Colorado-Big Thompson Project diverts water from the Colorado River, on the west slope of the Continental Divide, to storage reservoirs on the east slope. From there, water is released to generate power, supplement irrigation supplies, and meet municipal and industrial needs. Project reservoirs are also major recreation centers. The Colorado-Big Thompson Project has helped stabilize the agricultural and industrial economies of northeast Colorado by providing a dependable supply of water and power for more than two decades.

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