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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION DeWitt - Interior 4662

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RECLAMATION NAMES ENGINEER FOR EMERY COUNTY PROJECT OFFICE AT PRICE, UTAH

Ross D. Billings has been named Project Construction Engineer for the $12 million Emery County Reclamation Project in Central Utah, the Department of the Interior reported today.

Billings will head an Emery County Project office, which will open soon and which will be located initially at Price, Utah. He will direct preconstruction surveys and later construction of the project scheduled to get underway during fiscal year 1962 with the relocation of two highways. His office also will gather field data necessary for the design of project works.

Congress recently authorized a $500,000 program to initiate construction activities during this fiscal year on the Emery County Project, a participating unit of the Colorado River Storage Project. Emery County recently was designated a redevelopment area because of substantial and persistent unemployment. Construction and operation of the Reclamation project will provide immediate and long-range economic benefits for the area.

Price, a city of 7,000, is on U. S. Highway 50 and the main line of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

Commissioner of Reclamation Floyd E. Dominy, who appointed Billings, said the Emery County Project staff is expected to reach approximately 20 employees in 1962. The office force will increase to about 50 at peak of construction in 1964 and 1965. Billings, was previously the Construction Engineer on the Collbran Project at Collbran, Colorado. Before that he was with the Weber Basin Project at Ogden, Utah.

Construction of Joes Valley Dam and Reservoir, the Emery County Project's main storage facility, is scheduled to start in 1963. Construction of other major features, including Huntington North Dam and Reservoir, the Swasey Diversion Dam, about 20 miles of new canals, ten miles of lining of existing canals and nearly 25 miles of drains, will follow.

The project will provide irrigation water for about 19,000 acres of land in Emery County adjacent to Cottonwood and Huntington Creeks, tributaries of the San Rafael River, which flows into the Green River.

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