For Release to PM's, FEBRUARY 12, 1964

RECLAMATION WILL ESTABLISH OFFICE AT GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO, FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WESTERN SLOPE FEATURES OF FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS PROJECT

The Bureau of Reclamation will open a construction office at Glenwood Springs, Colo., April 1, to coordinate and supervise all construction of the Western Slope features of the $170-million Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, the Department of the Interior reported today.

Project features west of the Continental Divide include Ruedi Dam and Reservoir; tunnels, canals, conduits, siphons, and diversion structures of the north and south side collection systems; and a field operations office to be built near the community of Meredith, Colo.

A construction engineer will be appointed to head the Glenwood Springs office under the general supervision of Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Manager J. L. Ogilvie, in Pueblo, Colo.

Initially the office will have a staff of about a dozen, with employment expected to rise to a high of about 40 engineers, inspectors, and survey technicians at the peak of construction. The staff will be reassigned from completed Reclamation projects. Contractor employment is expected to reach a peak of about 150 during construction of Ruedi Dam.

Work will begin this spring on Ruedi Dam and Reservoir, on the Fryingpan River near the town of Basalt, Colo., the first Fryingpan-Arkansas feature to go into construction. It will provide replacement storage for average annual diversions of 69,200 acre-feet of water to be channeled by the Western Slope collection system into a tunnel piercing the Continental Divide. The diverted water will supplement the irrigation supply for 280,600 acres of project lands in the Arkansas River Valley in southeastern Colorado and provide water for municipal and industrial use by Pueblo, Colorado Springs, and other cities in the Arkansas River basin. The Fryingpan-Arkansas Project, when completed, also will generate 123,900 kilowatts of commercial power which will help repay the Federal investment.

P.N. 41799-64