RECLAMATION AWARDS $17.5 MILLION CONTRACT TO CONSTRUCT THREE TUNNELS ON THE FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS PROJECT

The Department of the Interior today announced the award of a $17,566,167 Bureau of Reclamation contract for constructing three tunnels and three diversion dams on the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project near Leadville, Colorado.

The contract was awarded to the four-company venture of Winston Bros. Company, Foley Brothers, Inc., Hurley Construction Company, and Frazier-Davis Construction Company of Minneapolis, Minn.

Only $10,589 separated the winning low bid from the second low offer of $17,566,756 by Mid-Valley Inc., Houston, Texas, and Morrison-Knudsen Company, Inc., Boise, Idaho. Third low of four bids on Specifications No. DC-6277, was the $17,769,111 offer of Dravo Corporation, Pittsburg, Pa.

Work under the contract will include the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project's main water carrier, Divide Tunnel, which is to be drilled through the Continental Divide, and two other tunnels and related features of the Project's South Side Collection System on the west slope of the Divide.

All three of the tunnels will be constructed at an elevation of about two miles above sea level. The 5.3-mile long Divide Tunnel will have an average diameter of 10½ feet. South Fork Tunnel will be eight feet in diameter and 3.1 miles long, and Chapman Tunnel, seven feet in diameter and 2.6 miles long. In addition the contractor will be required to construct three diversion dams and appurtenant structures.

These features of the west slope's collection system will relay water from tributaries of the Fryingpan River to the east slope of the Rockies. Chapman Creek runoff will be diverted by Chapman Diversion Dam and Tunnel to South Fork Diversion Dam. The combined surplus runoff of Chapman Creek and the South Fork tributary
will be diverted through South Fork Tunnel to Fryingpan Diversion Dam on the main Fryingpan River. This diverted water, averaging about 69,200 acre feet annually, will then flow through Divide Tunnel to the east slope.

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 $170 million Fryingpan-Arkansas Project also will generate hydroelectric power, and provide extensive flood control, as well as fish and wildlife benefits, widespread recreational opportunities, and other benefits.

Construction will be completed in 1,280 days.

The construction work is expected to provide 900 man-years of employment at the site, and the equivalent of about an equal number of man-years of employment at various manufacturing and supply sites across the country.

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