GLEN CANYON DAM POWERPLANT EXPANSION

A study to investigate the potential of expanding the powerplant at Glen Canyon Dam is beginning, Regional Director N.W. Plummer of the Bureau of Reclamation announced today. The study will look at the economic feasibility and the environmental impacts of adding up to 250,000 kilowatts (kW) to the current capacity of 950,000 kW at the Glen Canyon facility. Powerplant expansion is one alternative to meet increasing electric power demands in the Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, and Colorado areas. Gas-fired turbines are currently used to meet these growing power requirements; however, increasing gas costs and short supplies are making hydropower more attractive.

Potential environmental impacts of the proposed project would come from an increased fluctuation of flows out of the dam as a result of a larger powerplant. The present peak release is about 33,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Peak releases could increase to 40,000 cfs with the expansion, and minimum flows would be sustained for longer periods.

A series of public meetings is being held to introduce interested people to the project study. The meetings will be held in the following locations:

Page, Arizona July 24 7:30 p.m. Visitor Center

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Flagstaff, Arizona  July 25  7:30 p.m.  Seminar Hall
              M.S. Colton Research Center
              Museum of Northern Arizona

Phoenix, Arizona  July 26  7:30 p.m.  Maricopa County Supervisor's
              Auditorium, 205 W. Jefferson

Salt Lake City, Utah  July 31  7:30 p.m.  Ramada Inn
              10th South and Main Street

Anyone interested in the study can be involved by attending one of the above meetings or by writing to Steven Harris, Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 640, Durango, CO 81301; or call (303) 247-0247.

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