Lake Powell, the reservoir behind the Bureau of Reclamation's Glen Canyon Dam in northern Arizona, has reached the minimum elevation at which the powerplant's eight generators can develop their rated capacity of 112,500 kilowatts each, the Department of the Interior reported today.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Power Development, James R. Smith, said the milestone water level was reached May 29, when the waters impounded by the Bureau of Reclamation's largest water storage unit on the Colorado River Storage Project rose to the elevation of 3,570 feet above sea level, bringing the depth of Lake Powell at the dam up to 432 feet.

Lake Powell now stretches some 180 miles upriver into southeastern Utah's spectacular canyons and contains 11,426,000 acre-feet of water. The lake is expected to continue to rise by something around seven vertical feet more, depending on precipitation and runoff during the rest of the April-July spring runoff period. At its peak, it will contain about 12 million acre-feet of water. The lake is expected to remain at or near this level throughout the summer, dip slightly during next winter, then rise again when next spring's snowmelt season begins. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the lake is expected to remain above its "rated head" from now on.