ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER
A DIVISION OF PACIFICORP

For information, contact:
David Eskelsen 801-220-2447
Media Hotline 800-775-7950

Ashton reservoir to be refilled beginning Nov. 6

Completion of three-year dam reconstruction project on schedule by end of 2012

ASHTON, Idaho, Oct. 11, 2012—As the reconstruction of the Ashton Dam proceeds on schedule, the project team has notified stakeholders that the process of refilling the reservoir to its normal elevation will begin Nov. 6.

PacifiCorp, which operates as Rocky Mountain Power in Idaho, worked with federal and state officials and interested stakeholders for a number of years on this project. The preparation and reconstruction have proceeded over the past three years.

"As we complete this unique and detailed project, we are pleased to announce that we will begin refilling Ashton reservoir on Nov. 6," said Troy Stout, project manager. "We expect that major reconstruction activities on the dam will be complete by mid-November. Through the rest of 2012, we will be clearing up the construction areas and preparing the project to again produce low-cost electricity. We expect to re-open the reservoir for public recreational access in mid-December.

"We want to thank especially the nearby property owners and farmers who use Ashton reservoir for irrigation and recreation, together with the community of Ashton," Stout added. "We appreciate their patience and understanding during the course of this project. We are also grateful for the work of state and federal agencies, sport fishermen and the Henry's Fork Foundation, who assisted us with the planning and execution of the reconstruction. It has been a very productive partnership."

Planning and execution of this project was closely coordinated with environmental, federal, state regulatory and permitting agencies who have authority over hydroelectric projects. Extensive consultation and planning for the safety of workers and the public—as well as water quality and fishery considerations—have been a priority in this process.

The project featured extensive preparatory steps that began in 2010 with the construction of a diversion tunnel around the dam. In 2011 preparation continued with connection of the tunnel to the reservoir and construction of an upstream cofferdam to allow the reservoir to be lowered for removal and replacement of the earthen portion of the dam in 2012. In January, March and April of this year, replacement and repair of concrete supporting structures was completed on the downstream side of the power house. Continuing work this summer and fall includes excavation and reconstruction of the earthen and rock-fill portion of the dam and replacement of the dam's concrete cap.

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Throughout the entire process, PacifiCorp worked with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Idaho Department of Water Resources' dam safety program to evaluate the structural conditions of the dam and to determine the most appropriate and cost effective design and construction method to upgrade the structure to modern standards. The company has consulted with qualified independent experts with extensive geotechnical and structural engineering experience to develop the design details and construction requirements and has enlisted similarly qualified contractors to perform the work.

About Ashton hydroelectric plant

The Ashton Hydro Plant is operated by PacifiCorp Energy, which provides electric generation services to Rocky Mountain Power and Pacific Power. The Ashton Plant is located on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River, approximately 2.5 miles west of Ashton, Idaho. Construction on the project began in 1914 and completed in 1918. It was later purchased and expanded in 1925 by Utah Power & Light Co. (a predecessor company of Rocky Mountain Power). The project consists of a dam and powerhouse with three generating units. The dam is a rock and earth filled structure, 60 feet tall and 226 feet long, with a 70-foot-wide concrete intake and 82-foot-long spillway. A roller compacted concrete cap was installed in 1991 to protect the embankment during flood flows. Unit No.1 is rated at 2.85 megawatts. Units No.2 and No. 3 are each rated at 2.5 megawatts.

Marking 100 years of customer service

2012 is an exciting year for Rocky Mountain Power employees as we mark the company's centennial. Our history of providing electric service has helped shape the development of communities across Idaho, Utah and Wyoming, and is woven into the history of the region and the people who live here.

In 1912, dozens of small, less-efficient electric companies, including Idaho Power & Transportation Co. and Telluride Power Co., were consolidated into Utah Power & Light Co. Telluride Power pioneered long-distance transmission with the construction of 200 miles of transmission lines extending from its development on Bear River at Grace, Idaho, to Eureka, Utah.

Utah Power continued to develop the Bear River system into one of the first multipurpose reclamation projects in America with immense value as a power source and an aid to agriculture in the area. The river and Bear Lake were connected by a canal that permitted the lake to store the valuable spring runoff water. A pumping plant was built to lift the water from the lake into a man-made canal to return the stored water to the river for use downstream as the irrigators required it. Four reservoirs and five power plants, now totaling 105 megawatts of capacity, were built at no cost to the farmers or to the federal government. The projects continue to provide benefits to farmers and electric consumers, as well as recreational use and wildlife habitat.

To learn more, visit, our Centennial website.

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