ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER
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Ashton Dam reservoir level to be raised in November

ASHTON, Idaho, Nov. 14, 2011—After successful completion of the first phase of the project to improve the Ashton Dam to modern construction standards, the reservoir level will be raised for the winter season beginning in late November.

The reservoir will be increased to an elevation of 5,147 feet above mean sea level beginning the week of Nov. 28. Then, in May 2012, the reservoir will be lowered again to an elevation of 5,130 feet for the final phase of the project. This involves completing repairs on the upstream portion of the dam and on the concrete structures at the crest of the dam. The project is scheduled to be completed and the reservoir returned to normal elevation by the end of 2012.

PacifiCorp, which operates as Rocky Mountain Power in Idaho, has worked for several years with federal and state officials and interested stakeholders on the planning and preparations for this project. Project planning was closely coordinated with environmental, federal, state regulatory and permitting agencies who have authority over hydroelectric projects. Extensive consultation and planning for safety and water quality considerations have been a priority in this process.

“We recognize that this construction has an impact on both residents and recreationalists as we continue on with this large and important project,” said Robert Atwood, project manager for PacifiCorp. “The company is committed to long-term ownership and operation of the Ashton hydroelectric project for our customers and for the clean, low-cost electricity it produces.”

Residents and farmers with property and facilities near the reservoir have been notified directly by mail about the project schedule.

PacifiCorp has been working with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Idaho Department of Water Resources Dam Safety since 2004 to evaluate the condition of the dam and to determine the scope of work required to upgrade the structure to modern standards. The utility consulted with qualified structural engineers and engineering geologists, all with extensive experience with the design and construction of embankment dams like Ashton.

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The need to pursue a more detailed evaluation of the dam's condition was identified in spring 2004 and that evaluation was conducted periodically over several years, requiring adjustments of the reservoir level from time to time. Throughout the evaluation phase, company officials met periodically with those who use Ashton Reservoir for irrigation and for recreation to keep them informed of the project and the schedule of work as it developed.

About Ashton Hydro Plant

The Ashton Hydro Plant is operated by PacifiCorp Energy, which provides electric generation services to Rocky Mountain Power and Pacific Power. The project is located on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River, approximately 2.5 miles west of the city of Ashton, Idaho. The project began operating in 1914 and 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 rated at 2.5 megawatts.

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