



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JAN 14 2002

Honorable Kenny Guinn
Governor of Nevada
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Guinn:

The Bureau of Reclamation, after consultation on September 26, 2001, with representatives of the Colorado River Basin States, the Upper Colorado River Commission, appropriate Federal agencies, Indian tribes, and others interested in Colorado River operations, established the Annual Operating Plan, (copy enclosed) for the Colorado River reservoirs for 2002. The plan of operation reflects use of the reservoirs for all purposes consistent with the "Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of the Colorado River Reservoirs Pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Project Act of September 30, 1968" (Operating Criteria).

Pursuant to required Secretarial determinations, storage equalization and the avoidance of spills will control the annual releases from Glen Canyon Dam in accordance with Article II(3) of the Operating Criteria unless the minimum objective release criterion in Article II(2) is controlling. If the equalization criterion is controlling, Glen Canyon Dam will be operated to release sufficient water during water year 2002 to equalize, as nearly as practicable, the active reservoir contents of Lake Powell and Lake Mead on September 30, 2002.

Taking into account (1) the existing water supply conditions in the basin, (2) the most probable near-term water supply conditions in the basin, and (3) that the beneficial consumptive use requirements of Colorado River mainstream users in the Lower Division States are expected to be more than 7.5 million acre-feet (MAF) or 9,250 million cubic meters (MCM), and specifically (4) the Interim Surplus Guidelines, the Full Domestic Surplus condition is the criterion governing the operation of Lake Mead for calendar year 2002 in accordance with Article III(3)(b) of the Operating Criteria and Article II(B)(2) of the Decree and Section 2(B)(2) of the Interim Surplus Guidelines. The estimated amount of surplus water expected to be pumped or released from Lake Mead during calendar year 2002 is not expected to exceed 0.640 MAF (789.44 MCM). The actual amount of surplus could be less than this amount (in the likely event of the use of any available unused apportionment) and could also, based on actual Direct Delivery Domestic Use, exceed this projected amount.

Honorable Kenny Guinn

2


A volume of 1.5 MAF (1,850 MCM) of water will be scheduled for delivery to the Republic of Mexico during calendar year 2002 in accordance with Article 15 of the 1944 U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty and Minute No. 242 of the International Boundary and Water Commission.

Any Lower Division State may be allowed to use water apportioned to, but unused by, another Lower Division State in accordance with Article II(B)(6) of the Decree and Section 1(B) of the Interim Surplus Guidelines.

It is my intention that Glen Canyon Dam will continue to be operated in conformance with the Record of Decision for the Glen Canyon Dam Final Environmental Impact Statement (GCDFEIS). Reservoir releases in excess of power plant capacity required for dam safety purposes during high reservoir conditions may be used to accomplish the objectives of the Beach/Habitat Building Flow according to the terms contained in the Record of Decision for the GCDFEIS, and as published in the Glen Canyon Dam Operating Criteria (62 Federal Register 9447, Mar. 3, 1997).

Anticipated increases in the use of Colorado River water dictate that the efficient use of water must be a priority to properly manage the resource. Consultations concerning water conservation measures and operating practices may be carried out under Title 43 CFR Part 417, Procedural Methods for Implementing Colorado River Water Conservation Measures with Lower Basin Contractors and Others.

Sincerely,



Gale A. Norton

Enclosure

cc: Mr. George Caan, Director
Colorado River Commission of Nevada

The same letter was sent to the following individuals:

Honorable Jane Dee Hull
Governor of Arizona

cc: Mr. Joseph C. Smith
Director, Arizona Department
of Water Resources

Honorable Gray Davis
Governor of California

cc: Mr. Gerald R. Zimmerman
Executive Director
Colorado River Board
of California

Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Governor of Utah

cc: Mr. D. Larry Anderson
Director
Utah Division of Water Resources

Honorable Gary E. Johnson
Governor of New Mexico

cc: Mr. Thomas C. Turney
State Engineer

Honorable Christie Whitman
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. J. M. Shafer
Administrator
Western Area Power Administration

Honorable Kenny Guinn
Governor of Nevada

cc: Mr. George Caan, Director
Colorado River Commission of Nevada

Mr. Carlos Ramirez
Commissioner, United States Section
International Boundary and Water
Commission

cc: Mr. Alton Goff
United States Section
International Boundary and
Water Commission

Honorable Jim Geringer
Governor of Wyoming

cc: Mr. Patrick T. Tyrrell
State Engineer

Honorable Bill Owens
Governor of Colorado

cc: Mr. Greg Walcher
Director
Colorado Water Conservation Board

Colonel Larry Davis
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mr. Sam Maynes
Chairman
Upper Colorado River Commission

cc: Mr. Wayne Cook
Executive Director
Upper Colorado River Commission

bc: Secretary's Surname
Secretary's Reading file (2)s
OS/WS (3)

W-1000, W-6100, W-1530, W-6000, W-1500, W-6333, W-6330, W-1125, PXAO-6000,
AS/WS

Regional Director, Boulder City NV, Attention: LC-1000
Regional Director, Salt Lake City UT, Attention: UC-1000

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