

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
REGION I

01-4054



PALISADES PROJECT, IDAHO
ANNUAL PROJECT HISTORY
VOLUME VII
CALENDAR YEAR 1957

CHRONOLOGY

- January 15 - Bids were opened for Reconditioning Palisades-Goshen Transmission Line No. 1.
- January 22 - Concrete placement in outlet tunnel adit was completed.
- January 22 - Initial test run of No. 3 turbine and generator was started at 2:08 p.m.
- February 13 - Stator sections for Generator Unit No. 4 were shipped to the National Electric Coil Company, Columbus, Ohio, for repair.
- February 16 - Generator Unit No. 3 was put on the line at 3 p.m. during a Customers' Day celebration to mark the beginning of hydroelectric power production at Palisades Dam.
- February 20 - Contract No. 14-06-100-1111, Specifications No. 100C-277 for Reconditioning Palisades-Goshen Transmission Line No. 1, was awarded to Flora Construction Company, Denver, Colorado.
- February 23 - Notice to proceed was given to Flora Construction Company.
- ~~X~~ February 25 - Palisades Powerplant went into commercial production at 10 a.m.
- March 6 - Concrete placing resumed in the arch section of the spillway tunnel inclined shaft.
- March 15 - Work began on Reconditioning Palisades-Goshen Transmission Line No. 1.
- March 21 - Construction of outlet-works control house resumed.
- March 22 - Radial-hole drilling and grouting in the outlet tunnel completed.
- March 28 - Outlet Gates Nos. 7 and 8 were lowered to reduce the flow of water from the reservoir.
- April 1 - Grouting in the spillway tunnel was started.
- April 8 - Outlet Gates Nos. 7 and 8 were raised to reduce reservoir content for flood control purposes.
- April 15 - Earth-fill placement was resumed for this season.

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Palisades Project

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33,000 cubic feet per second. The dam creates a reservoir of 1,401,000 acre-feet capacity.

The powerplant is on the downstream toe of the dam on the west side of the river and has a total capacity of 118,750 kilowatts.

DEVELOPMENT**Investigations**

Following the drought period of the early 1930's, a need was recognized for additional storage for lands already under irrigation in the Minidoka Project and in private developments, and investigations of various reservoir sites were made upstream from American Falls Dam. The Palisades site was selected for the construction of the dam and reservoir to provide holdover storage to supplement the water supply for existing irrigated lands, to develop a limited acreage of new lands, to provide flood control, and to generate electrical power. Intensive investigations at the location as now developed were started by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1934.

In February 1978, a study was completed that could add 90,000 kilowatts of power. Present penstock capacity could be tapped and two generating units of 45,000 kilowatts each added, accommodated by an extension to the existing powerhouse. Further studies are underway that would tap the present outlet works with power facilities to add another 135,000 kilowatts. This would require a new powerplant building and probably downstream reregulating facilities.

Authorization

The project was initially authorized by the Secretary of the Interior on December 9, 1941, under the provisions of section 9 of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (53 Stat. 1187). Reauthorization of the project by the Congress was granted on September 30, 1950 (Public Law 864, 81st Cong.), substantially in accordance with a supplemental report approved by the Secretary of the Interior in 1949.

Construction

The preconstruction phase of the project was started early in 1945. Construction was delayed until the close of World War II and until local interests gave satisfactory assurance to the Bureau of Reclamation that they would eliminate the wasteful use of water in the area to be served by the project. Actual construction of the project was initiated in 1951 and completed in 1957. All generating units of the powerplant were in operation by May 1958.

Operating Agency

The Bureau of Reclamation operates and maintains the project.

BENEFITS**Irrigation**

Palisades Dam provides holdover storage during years of average or above average precipitation for release in ensuing dry years to lands of the Upper Snake River Valley, the area served by diversions from the river above Milner Dam. This holdover storage assures an adequate supply of supplemental water for over 670,000 acres of irrigated lands in the valley. Principal crops are grain, alfalfa, pasture, dry beans, potatoes, sugar beets, other vegetables, and seeds.

Hydroelectric Power

The Palisades Powerplant has four generators, two rated at 30,875 kilowatts each and two rated at 28,500 kilowatts each, making the total capacity of the powerplant 118,750 kilowatts. It serves large irrigation pumping power requirements on and near the Minidoka Project in southern Idaho. The plant is connected with the Pacific Northwest Power Pool.

Flood Control

The project also provides substantial flood control benefits. A flood control operating plan has been established with the Corps of Engineers and several local interests. The plan provides for the joint use of storage capacity during flood seasons for irrigation and flood control on the basis of periodic runoff forecasts. Flood control space is held in Jackson Lake and Palisades Reservoir on a forecast basis to control the Snake River near Heise to no more than 20,000 cubic feet per second.

Recreation

Palisades Reservoir is in a scenic river valley with forested hillsides rising from the water to the towering snowcapped mountains which form the background. Since the reservoir is paralleled by U.S. Highway 26, much of the recreational use is by tourists. The reservoir has about 70 miles of shoreline and six access roads have been built. Recreation at Palisades Reservoir is administered by the Targhee National Forest headquartered in St. Anthony, Idaho. Public use facilities include six campgrounds, five picnic areas, and six boat ramps. Two boat clubs have facilities on the reservoir and 74 private cabins have been constructed under lease from the Forest Service. The Bureau of Reclamation has developed a day-use area and campground below the dam to provide fishing and boat launching on the Snake River.