

South California Power Firms Seek to Hedge On Nevada Pact

CARSON CITY, Mar. 2. (UP)

—The Nevada Colorado river commission has thrown down the gauntlet to the southern California power interests who are attempting to hedge from their original agreement regarding the price of secondary power to Nevada, it was revealed here today.

The commission voted to stand on its demand for a sufficient amount of such power to give the users in this state the same average rate as is available in southern California.

The Boulder canyon project act gave Arizona and Nevada the right to withdraw a block of firm power, but made no provision for secondary power for either state, this energy all being allotted to the city of Los Angeles and Southern California Edison company.

By averaging the cost of the two, the Southern California utilities would be able to furnish power to large users at a considerably less figure than Nevada.

At the Yellowstone conference last summer it was agreed that provision should be made in the proposed amendments to the Boulder canyon project act whereby Nevada and Arizona could secure sufficient secondary power to insure the same average rate for users in those states as southern California utilities can offer.

Meeting in Los Angeles last week, C. F. DeArmond, resident engineer for the Nevada Colorado river commission was advised that the southern California utilities were united in demanding that this provision be stricken from the amendments which would leave Nevada and Arizona with only firm power to offer potential industrial developers.

Price of firm power under the present contracts is 1.63 mills per kilowatt hour for falling water with secondary power available at .5 mills. The proposed amendments would reduce this price to 1.10 mills for firm and .3 mills for secondary.