

Feb 13, 1947

# CLIMAX OF CORONA TESTS TO BE HELD AT BOULDER DAM SUNDAY

Eyes of the electrical profession will be on Boulder Dam next Sunday when two score experts will converge on N-3 generator unit to observe corona tests in the high voltage windings.

The tests will be conducted under supervision of F. A. Latham, superintendent here for the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Among the 40 to 50 observers will be electrical engineers of the DWP, Bureau of Reclamation and Southern California Edison Co., and manufacturers' representatives from the Pacific Coast.

N-3 unit is scheduled to be completely overhauled beginning next month. The turbine and generator will be torn down for the first major overhaul since installation 10 years ago. The unit will be out of service six or eight weeks.

Sunday's tests will be the climax of a long time study to determine the facts of the voltage formation in corona effect—when the voltage forms, where the activity is greatest and its effect on inorganic material.

The high voltages employed here make Boulder Dam an excellent laboratory for this study. These generators, designed for 16,500 volts and operated at 17,000, show a glow discharge as a result of breaking down of the dielectric strength of the air surrounding the conductors.

This effect is believed to have been the cause of the failure of generators on certain other projects.

For that reason, the electrical world is awaiting with interest the conclusions to be derived from findings in the studies being carried on here.