

FINAL STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT TO BE REACHED NEXT MONTH REVEALED

5-11-37
Firm Energy to Be Provided to South California Communities

LAKE IS DEEPENING

Expected to Reach 420-Foot Stage Necessary By First of June

WASHINGTON, May 11. (UP) — The mighty Boulder dam project will pass into its final stage of development on June first when the firm power contracts become effective and the giant turbines in the canyon start generating power on a permanent basis, it was announced today by Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes.

The secretary said he had notified the cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena that energy will be available on a firm power basis on that date requiring payment of 1.63 mills per kilowatt hour for all the power they have contracted to purchase.

Boulder lake is expected by June 1 to reach a depth of 420 feet which is the minimum head of water for operations on a continuous basis of the turbines in the power plant.

UNDER THE terms of the contracts they become effective when sufficient water has been stored to assure a steady output of at least 1,250,000,000 kilowatt hours of electrical energy per year, and that point will be reached on June 1.

Power generated so far has been disposed of under interim contracts at a half mill rate, and it is expected that revenue from energy sold after June 1 will jump immediately approximately 300 per cent.

THE SECRETARY said he is preparing to consider the requests for reducing the 1.63 mill rate presented at a hearing in his office on April 16.

Tomorrow is the final day for filing rebuttal briefs by those parties and the agencies of the upper Colorado river basin states who oppose such reductions.

The municipalities notified today represented the first group of purchasers which the reclamation bureau will serve on full production basis.

POWER PRODUCTION will eventually increase from the present capacity by installation of as many as thirteen more generating units.

Expected revenue from the sales of power during 1937 will be approximately \$1,500,000, the secretary said today.