

Wilkinson receives Interior Award

V. Benjamin Wilkinson, retired Lower Colorado Dams project manager for the Bureau of Reclamation, recently received the Department of the Interior Meritorious Service Award at a Boulder City ceremony.

The award was presented to Wilkinson by Reclamation regional director Bob Towles. A citation signed by Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, Jr., commended Wilkinson's outstanding

contributions in the field of project management with the Bureau of Reclamation. The award cited improved efficiency of power production, hydroelectric powerplant operations and personnel relations.

Wilkinson, who managed Hoover, Davis and Parker Dams on the Colorado River from 1977 until his retirement in January 1992, supervised Hoover Dam

during the 1987 transition of the dam's powerplant operations from contractor to U.S. government forces. During the first year of federal operation the efficiency of the Hoover powerplant increased while operating costs decreased. For this accomplishment the project was recognized with the U.S. Senate Productivity award.

Wilkinson began his federal career in Reclamation's Pacific

Northwest Region in 1958 as a general engineer. He moved to the Upper Colorado Region in 1967 before becoming a supervisory mechanical engineer in the Lower Colorado Region in 1971. During this time he served as manager of Parker Dam prior to assuming his responsibilities at Hoover Dam.

Wilkinson and his wife, Pixie, live in Boulder City.