

Summary

Upper Basin Delivery. Taking into account (1) the existing water storage conditions in the basin, (2) the August 2011 24-Month Study¹² projection of the most probable near-term water supply conditions in the basin, and (3) Section 6.A of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the Equalization Tier will govern the operation of Lake Powell for water year 2012. The August 2011 24-Month Study of the most probable inflow scenario projects the water year 2012 release from Glen Canyon Dam to be 13.57 million acre-feet (maf) (16.730 million cubic meters [mcm]). Given the hydrologic variability of the Colorado River System and actual 2011 water year operations, the projected water year release from Lake Powell in 2012 could be in the range of 9.46 maf (11,670 mcm) to an estimated 14.48 maf (17,860 mcm) or greater.

For further information about the variability of projected inflow into Lake Powell, see the 2012 Water Supply Assumptions section and the Lake Powell section under the Summary of Reservoir Operations in 2011 and Projected 2012 Reservoir Operations, and Tables 3 and 4.

Lower Basin Delivery. Taking into account (1) the existing water storage conditions in the basin, (2) the most probable near-term water supply conditions in the basin, and (3) Section 2.B.5 of the 2007 Interim Guidelines, the Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) Surplus Condition governs the operation of Lake Mead for calendar year 2012 in accordance with Article III(3)(b) of the Operating Criteria and Article II(B)(2) of the Consolidated Decree.

No unused apportionment for calendar year 2012 is anticipated. If any unused apportionment becomes available after adoption of this AOP, Reclamation, on behalf of the Secretary, may allocate any such available unused apportionment for calendar year 2012. Any such allocation shall be made in accordance with Article II(B)(6) of the Consolidated Decree and the Lower Colorado Region Policy for Apportioned but Unused Water¹³ (Unused Water Policy).

Colorado River water may be stored off-stream pursuant to individual Storage and Interstate Release Agreements (SIRAs) and 43 CFR Part 414 within the Lower Division States. The Secretary shall make Intentionally Created Unused Apportionment (ICUA) available to contractors in Arizona, California, or Nevada pursuant to individual SIRAs and 43 CFR Part 414.

¹² The 24-Month Study refers to the operational study conducted by Reclamation to project future reservoir operations. The most recent 24-Month Study is available on Reclamation's Water Operations websites and is updated each month. Available online at: <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/studies/index.html> and <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/24mo.pdf>.

¹³ Lower Colorado Region Policy for Apportioned but Unused Water, February 11, 2010. Available online at: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/UnusedWaterPolicy.pdf>.

The Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy (IOPP), which became effective January 1, 2004, will be in effect during calendar year 2012.¹⁴

The 2007 Interim Guidelines adopted the ICS mechanism that among other things encourages the efficient use and management of Colorado River water in the Lower Basin. ICS may be created and delivered in 2012 pursuant to the 2007 Interim Guidelines and appropriate delivery and forbearance agreements.

1944 United States-Mexico Water Treaty Delivery. A volume of up to 1,500 maf (1,850 mcm) of water will be available to be scheduled for delivery to Mexico during calendar year 2012 in accordance with Article 15 of the 1944 United States-Mexico Water Treaty and Minutes No. 242, 314, and 318 of the IBWC.

¹⁴ Record of Decision for Implementation Agreement, Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy, and Related Federal Actions, Final Environmental Impact Statement, October 10, 2003; 69 *Federal Register* 12202, March 15, 2004). Available online at: http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/crwda/crwda_rod.pdf.