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Page Electric Utility

electric power service for the people . . . by the people



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December 6, 2004

Regional Director
Attention: BCOO-4600
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470
FAX: (702) 293-8614
Attention: Jayne Harkins

RE: Comments on Lake Powell water level to support power generation.

Recently the concern has been raised about maintaining the Lake Powell water level to support hydro electric generation. Page Electric Utility would like to comment.

Without question, should the drought continue, water releases from Glen Canyon Dam will need to be curtailed at some point. Page Electric Utility believes that water deliveries should be curtailed at a point before the minimum power pool is reached.

Glen Canyon Dam has the ability to respond to grid – energy emergencies. Arguably, it would be wise and prudent to maintain the minimum power pool rather than allow the water level to drop down to the bypass level and maintain the ability to respond to these emergencies.

Water level maintained at or above minimum power pool will provide some revenue whereas water level maintained down at the bypass level will produce no revenue.

The Bureau of Reclamation has 'Black Start' agreements with fossil and nuclear power plants. These agreements will be in Breach if the lake level is allowed to drop below the minimum power pool level.

Page Electric Utility strongly believes that the water level of Lake Powell should be maintained at or above elevation 3490' to maintain the minimum power pool.

Please feel free to call me if you have any question or wish to discuss this further.

Thank you,

Kind Regards,

Bryan Hill - PE
General Manager PEU