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Managing Water in the West

Facilities, Instructions, Standards, and Techniques
Volume 2-4

Lubrication of Powerplant Equipment

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver, Colorado

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The proper selection and use of lubricants, as well as the care and operation of lubricating systems, is an essential part of any powerplant maintenance program. Choosing an appropriate lubricant for a particular application and maintaining the effectiveness of lubricants requires a basic understanding of lubrication theory and the characteristics of lubricants. This document discusses lubrication fundamentals, lubricant characteristics, additives, maintenance of lubrication systems, and the selection of lubricants for common powerplant equipment.

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The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.