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TWG  
11-5-97  
Bmoore

**DRAFT** (11/3/97)

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Glen Canyon Dam 1998 Annual Plan of Operations  
prepared in accordance with the Operating Criteria  
developed for the Grand Canyon Protection Act (GCPA)

Under the most probable inflow conditions in water year 1998, Glen Canyon Dam is expected to release about 11.8 MAF through the Grand Canyon to Lake Mead. This is about 3.6 MAF greater than the minimum objective release and is the result of high reservoir storage in both Lakes Powell and Mead. Lake Powell is expected to fill in July.

Monthly release volumes from Glen Canyon Dam during 1998 are expected to range from 600,000 AF to 1,200,000 AF. Projected daily allowable fluctuations therefore will be between 6,000 cfs and 8,000 cfs (see criteria). Minimum releases of 5,000 cfs at night and 8,000 cfs during the day and ramping rates of 4,000 cfs/hr increasing and 1,500 cfs/hr decreasing will be followed. All of the above is outlined in the Record of Decision implementing the preferred alternative of the Glen Canyon Dam Environmental Impact Statement.

~~With current projected monthly release volumes, daily releases likely will exceed 20,000 cfs from October through the month of January and again during the summer peak months of July and August, when monthly release volumes are at their highest for the year. If releases above 25,000 cfs are made, they will be made as steady flows. With the strong current El Nino Southern Oscillation anomaly, there is some indication that winter precipitation could be higher than normal in the southern portion of the Upper Colorado River Basin and that spring precipitation could also be higher than normal in the northern portion of the Basin. Since there are concerns for resulting high releases from Glen Canyon Dam, Lake Powell is being drawn down about 0.5 MAF more than usual by January 1, 1998, and releases throughout the year will be made in such a way to reduce the risk of uncontrolled spring releases that could result from large forecast errors similar to 1983.~~

Every measure will be taken to prevent such an uncontrolled powerplant bypass this spring in order to protect the Grand Canyon ecosystem downstream of Lake Powell. Discussions are continuing regarding the hydrologic triggering mechanisms under which Beach/Habitat Building Flows could be released from Glen Canyon Dam. Since water year 1998 is expected to have a January 1, 1998, Lake Powell storage content greater than 19 MAF, a beach/habitat maintenance flow of powerplant capacity is not planned.

This plan is prepared in conformance with Section 1804(c)(1)(A) of the GCPA. Any changes to the plan would require reconsultation in accordance with this Act.