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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pacific Power & Light Company and The Washington Water Power companies reported Saturday they have placed conditional orders for major equipment components for a second 700,000-kilowatt steam-electric unit to be built near Centralia, Wash., and are advancing the in-service date by one year in accordance with the 20-year program of the Northwest Joint Power Planning Council.

The No. 1 unit for the two-phase \$200,000,000 development is already under construction and slated for service September, 1971, and plans call for the No. 2 unit to be in service by September, 1972.

The companies announced the conditional orders will assure delivery of the massive turbine-generator and boiler equipment pending the completion of contractual agreements whereby the Bonneville Power Administration would take the output of the No. 2 unit during its first full year of operation. The arrangement is similar to the conditional orders which also were placed a year ago for the No. 1 unit equipment.

Referring to the 20-year, \$15-billion hydro and thermal generation and transmission program just announced by the 109-member utility system council, both Don C. Frisbee, president of PP&L, and George M. Brunzell, chairman of the board of WWP, described the program as a "sound concept." They said it provides a way for the utilities to cooperate in building large-capacity thermal plants to assure future low-cost power supply for the region.

The two companies and several neighboring systems expected to join in the Centralia development have played a leading role in the industry's two-year studies which resulted in the regional council's program.

In describing the progress of the work on the No. 1 unit for the huge plant, P. G. Humphreys, project engineer, reported preparation of the site continues despite some delays due to inclement weather. If the new schedule for the No. 2 unit is firmed up before the end of the year, it was said, the crews now working in the Hanaford Valley east of Centralia probably will also prepare the additional acreage.

The present work force of about 100 will be increased to about 300 early in 1969 and then gradually increase as major phases of the work go forward. The peak work force of 625 will be required in late 1970 for the No. 1 unit, but if the new No. 2 unit schedule stands the peak work force will be nearly 1,000 in late 1970-early 1971 and then decline, it was reported.

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Feasibility of harnessing four small tributaries of the upper Lewis river to produce 74,000 kilowatts of power by dropping the combined streams a vertical distance of 2,175 feet through two hydroelectric plants to the valley floor is proposed for study by Pacific Power & Light company as its most recent move toward providing additional power for the region.

It would be one of the highest head hydro developments in the United States, according to E. Robert de Luccia, vice president and chief engineer of the Pacific company.

Announcement of the proposal was made with the filing Wednesday of an application for a preliminary permit on the project with the Federal Power Commission at Washington, D. C.

Designated as the Meadows project, the development involves impounding water in a mountain meadow and marsh area in the high country west of Mt. Adams.

The Yale and Merwin projects, largest on the Pacific Power system with a combined capacity of 233,000 kilowatts, are located on the Lewis river.

In addition, the company is investigating the Swift Creek site between the Yale plant and the Meadows project under an FPC permit. Estimated generating capacity at Swift is approximately 250,000 kilowatts, according to de Luccia.

The proposed Meadows development would harness the waters of Rush, Curly, Meadows and Big creeks, tributaries of the Lewis in central Skamania county, Washington.

The development plan the company wants to study includes two main dams, three smaller diversion dams, three canals, two steel penstocks and two power plants.

Both would be "high head" plants, with the water dropping 795 feet to plant No. 1 and 1380 feet to plant No. 2. The project is estimated to produce about 325,000,000 kilowatt-hours per year, the company's application states.

No estimate of the cost of the proposed Meadows development was included in the application by Pacific Power.

The proposal involves throwing an earth-fill dam about 140 feet high and 2500' feet long across Big creek. This would shift the flow of this stream over into Meadow creek.

A second dam, slightly higher but shorter along the crest would then be built across Meadow creek, creating a storage reservoir from the waters of both creeks in the marshy area for which one creek is named.

A smaller diversion dam on Rush creek and a mile long canal would divert this stream also into the reservoir.

From the reservoir, a main canal about three miles long ending in a 2500-foot steel penstock would take the stored water to power house No. 1, which would have installed about 23,000 kilowatts of generating capacity.

Another diversion dam immediately below power house No. 1 will trap the water and shunt it into another steel penstock about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles long to operate power house No. 2, proposed to have installed 51,000 kilowatts of generating capacity.

A third small diversion dam will send the water of Curly creek also into the penstock for the second power house, which will discharge directly into the main Lewis river.

The 46-square mile drainage area of the project lies just southwest of Mt. Adams. The reservoir would provide about 65,000 acre-feet of usable stored water, the application says.