



S O U T H E A S T E R N C O L O R A D O

Water Conservancy District

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Southeastern District hydropower project to kick off in September

Construction of a hydroelectric generation plant at Pueblo Dam will begin in September after an agreement between the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation was signed on Friday.

"This is a monumental moment in the history of the district," said Jim Broderick, executive director. "We have been working to put all of the pieces in place since 2011. Now that this project is coming to fruition, it represents not only a sustainable income stream for our stakeholders, but develops a clean source of power for the future."

The Lease of Power Privilege clears the way for the hydropower plant to connect to Pueblo Dam, a federally owned structure. Mike Ryan, director of the Great Plains Region for Reclamation, signed the lease Friday. The Southeastern district has been working for the past 18 months to put a series of other agreements in place in order to satisfy all federal requirements.

The district has contracted with Mountain States Hydro, LLC, to build the plant. Construction will begin in September, and is scheduled to be completed during the fall and winter months when releases from Pueblo Dam generally decrease.

The plant should be online by spring of 2018.

Power from the plant will be purchased by the city of Fountain and by Colorado Springs Utilities for use at Fort Carson. For the first 10 years. After that, Fountain intends to purchase all of the power for at least 20 more years.

The plant will cost about \$19 million to build, and the Southeastern District last year secured a \$17.2 million loan from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The district's business enterprise is providing matching funds, which will be paid off over time by hydro revenues.

The plant will generate up to 7.5 megawatts of power by using three turbines capable of producing power from 35-800 cubic feet per second of flow in the Arkansas River. Water will pass through a connection that was built into the service line for the Southern Delivery System, then into the Arkansas River. No water will be consumed in the process, so flows in the river will not be affected.

Projections by district staff show that an average of 28 million kilowatt hours will be produced annually, with about \$1.4 million in average revenue per year. The money will go to repay the CWCB loan and the enterprise, as well as to satisfy contractual agreements with Reclamation and a carriage agreement with Black Hills Energy. Remaining funds will go to enterprise activities, including the Arkansas Valley Conduit.