



U.S. Department of the Interior
Central Utah Project Completion Act Office

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News Release
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INTERIOR APPROVES HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT IN SPANISH FORK CANYON

The Department of the Interior (Interior) has selected the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD), the Strawberry Water Users Association (SWUA), and the South Valley Electric Service District (SESD) as the joint lessee to develop hydroelectric power at the Central Utah Project, Spanish Fork River Flow Control Structure.

Interior has determined that it will not develop federal hydroelectric power at this Control Structure but instead allow non-federal entities to develop power through a “lease of power privilege”. This lease is intended to allow CUWCD, SWUA, and SESD to construct a power plant at the Control Structure and make lease payments to the federal government. No federal funds will be available for the power development. The Western Area Power Administration would have the first opportunity to purchase and/or market the power that would be generated under a lease of power privilege.

Federal policy encourages non-Federal development of environmentally sustainable hydropower potential on existing federal water resource projects. Interior is focusing on the development of sustainable, low impact hydropower projects. Adding hydropower capability at existing facilities is a cost-effective and environmentally sustainable way to build clean energy, create local jobs, and stimulate the economy.

The selection of CUWCD, SWUA, and SESD was made through a technical evaluation process by experts from the Bureau of Reclamation, Western Area Power Administration, and the

Bonneville Power Administration. The Department of the Interior published a notice on May 11, 2011, requesting proposals to develop power at the Control Structure, a Central Utah Project facility. Proposals were received by October 14, 2011. The potential lessee's now have five years to negotiate and execute contracts for a lease of power privilege with Interior.

For further information concerning the lease of power privilege please contact:
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