



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

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News Release

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Interior Announces Hydropower Development Initiative

KAYSVILLE, UTAH--Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science Anne Castle today announced that the Department of the Interior will allow private hydropower development at federal Central Utah Project (CUP) facilities. A specific request for proposals to develop hydropower at the CUP Spanish Fork Flow Control Structure will be published in the *Federal Register* this week.

This site was identified in the Hydropower Resource Assessment at Existing Reclamation Facilities, recently released by the Bureau of Reclamation as a component of the Memorandum of Understanding for Hydropower signed in March 2010 by Interior, the Department of Energy, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

A source for renewable electricity, hydropower is a component of the Administration's overall comprehensive energy policy and investment in a clean energy economy. Current 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 our clean energy portfolio, create local jobs, and stimulate the economy," Assistant Secretary Castle has noted. "We can increase our renewable hydropower output without building new dams. This opportunity highlights the potential for hydropower development and related jobs at existing facilities throughout the western United States."

In 2004, the Department of the Interior published the Bonneville Unit Definite Plan Report, which indicated Interior's intention to develop hydropower and have that hydropower managed and marketed by the federal government. With renewed interest in clean, domestic energy sources that can be quickly brought online, private entities have expressed a desire to develop

hydropower at federal CUP facilities. In response to those requests, the Department of the Interior has decided to entertain private development proposals. In consultation with the Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration (Western), Interior will consider proposals for non-federal development of hydroelectric power at the Spanish Fork Control Structure near Spanish Fork, Utah. No federal funds will be available for such hydroelectric 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.

All proposals will be considered and evaluated through a competitive process. The selected applicant will then negotiate a contract for the rights to lease the federal facility for power generation. Future hydropower projects at other CUP facilities are also under consideration.

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