

Future of Glen Canyon Dam debated

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation officials hope to keep Lake Powell's water levels from falling below 3,490 feet, the lowest elevation at which the dam can keep generating electricity for 5 million customers in seven states. As a backup plan, the bureau is also conducting studies of how it could keep generating power and allow water to pass through the dam as low as 3,374 feet. There, a set of steel outlet works normally carry water only during emergencies. Water typically enters the dam through eight penstocks, steel tubes leading into generators that produce electricity. The outlet works and penstocks are equipped with trash racks, steel bars that block passage of large debris.

