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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
GLEN CANYON POWERPLANT UPRATING

November 1981

Upper Colorado Regional Office
Salt Lake City, Utah
Durango Projects Office
Durango, Colorado

PRELIMINARY

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I. Need for Action

A. Introduction

The purpose of this environmental assessment is to evaluate the environmental impacts that would occur with the uprating of the generating capacity of Glen Canyon Powerplant. The assessment is prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and current Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation guidelines.

B. Need for Uprating the Generators at Glen Canyon Power Plant

To identify those existing hydroelectric facilities with potential for increasing power production of existing generators, a study was initiated in 1975 by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Glen Canyon was very high on the list. The turbines at Glen Canyon have an output of about 150 MW at the design head of 510 feet and 174 MW when the reservoir is full. However, the generators as installed did not match the turbine capability and were only rated up to 143.75 MW.

Things that the uprating of the generators would accomplish include:

1. Correcting deficiency in matching generators' output to turbines' output.
2. Providing increased capacity to meet peak loads.
3. Providing additional capacity for reserves during emergency situations and when power production is reduced while units are out of service for maintenance.

II. Alternatives

A. Preferred Plan

To meet the need for additional generating capacity, several alternatives exist. The preferred action in this case is the uprating of generating capacity at Glen Canyon Dam because it is an opportunity action. Modern developments in technology provide the ability to manufacture generator windings of increased electrical capacity that will fit in the same physical space as the original windings.

The Glen Canyon stator windings have deteriorated and require replacement. New replacement windings will increase the capacity of these generators.

Modification or replacement of equipment that would enable operation beyond present plant capacity is referred to as an uprating, and necessitates review of the capability and limits of all the power equipment: the penstock, turbine, generator, bus, switchgear, transformer, and transmission system.

The power equipment, other than the generators and turbines, have a present capability of about 167 MW. Since the turbines have a maximum capability only slightly greater than 167 MW, it appears the most logical level of uprate is 167 MW per unit.

Uprating the generators to about 167 MW will likely include replacing or reinsulating the field windings, and strengthening the rotor arms and other minor mechanical modifications, such as changing the fan assembly to increase airflow cooling.

Uprating the generators to 167 MW will increase total plant capacity from 1,150 MW to 1,336 MW for an increase of 186 MW; however, since turbine output is dependent on head or reservoir level, utilization of the increased capacity begins when the reservoir level is approximately 3,634 above sea level or higher. The maximum generation of 167 MW is only possible at reservoir levels of 3,686 feet and above.

At the new plant capacity of 1,336 MW, the discharge would be 1,700 ft³/s greater than the present maximum discharge of 32,000 ft³/s.

B. Other Economic Alternatives

The economic efficiency of uprating the existing generators at Glen Canyon appears to be very favorable. As mentioned in the description of the uprating, the rewinding process is taking place as a normal part of operation and maintenance. Furthermore, with current technology, replacement windings have increased capability and could provide additional capacity if some modifications to other parts of the generator system were made. This modification or uprate is very cost effective when compared with the additional capacity it provides.

As shown in Table 1, 186 MW of additional generation capacity could be developed for \$32 per KW by uprating the existing generation system. This compares to a capital cost of \$300 per KW for the most likely alternative source of capacity, a combustion turbine plant.

There is some opportunity to expand hydro-power facilities at other generation units of the CRSP but the potential capacity is small and the costs are greater than the uprate at Glen Canyon would be (see Table 1).

TABLE 1
CRSP Generation Expansion Alternatives Comparison

Comparison item	Alternatives Comparison				
	Glen Canyon uprate	Flaming Gorge Generator addition	Blue Mesa uprate	Combustion turbine plant	
Increased capacity(KW/year)	186	40	18	24	
Cost per KW of increased installed capacity	\$32	\$763	\$67	\$50	\$300
Benefit/cost ratio	10.1:1	2.0:1			N/A

C. No Action Alternative

The no action alternative is to simply rewind the generators and ignore the utilization of the turbine capabilities.

III. Environmental Consequences

A. Impacts of Uprating

As a result of the uprating, the flows below the dam could be increased by 1,700 ft³/s from the present day maximum of 32,000 ft³/s to a new maximum of 33,700 ft³/s. The Inland Power Pool requires each power entity to keep a certain amount of its power capabilities in reserve, to be used only in emergency situations. For the CRSP, the amount held in reserve is 144 MW. Since Glen Canyon is the major power producer of this system, it would maintain most of the reserve at this facility; consequently, the normal high release from the dam would not exceed approximately 32,000 ft³/s compared to recent releases of 30,000 to 31,000 ft³/s. Recent maximum releases are shown in Table 3. This table also shows the same flows as recorded at the Lee's Ferry gage 15 miles downstream.

As can be seen, the peaks have diminished somewhat by the time they reach Lee's Ferry. This is due to the daily fluctuation in flow and the physical characteristics of the channel.

TABLE 2
Comparison of Maximum Flows Recorded at Lee's Ferry
with Maximum Power Plant Discharges Recorded that Same Day
At Glen Canyon Dam (1975-1980)

Year	Date	Lee's Ferry in ft ³ /sec.	Glen Canyon Dam in ft ³ /sec.
1975	May 7	28,400	28,845
1976	May 19	27,100	29,042
1977	Sept. 6	29,000	30,933
	Sept. 7	29,000	30,523
	Sept. 8	29,000	30,387
	Jan. 23	28,400	30,879
1979	Jan. 29	28,600	31,571
1980	June 24	44,800	48,998 ^{1/}

^{1/} Spillway test.

Maximum releases travel faster than minimum releases, so they tend to overtake lower flows which result in a dampening of peak releases. The duration of maximum releases also influences the amount of dampening effect. As the duration of steady maximum discharge increases, flow characteristics will approach a steady state. This results in less dampening associated with lengthier peak releases.

Releases associated with uprating the generators (see figure 1) represents a shift away from longer maximum releases to short intervals of peak release.

Figure 2 and Table 3 show the flow releases from the dam as recorded at the dam and recorded flows at Lee's Ferry on September 5, 1978. Figure 1 and the table also show the theoretical releases for a day with the new generating capacity, and the simulated flows that would be recorded as at Lee's Ferry gage.

TABLE 3
 Glen Canyon Dam Releases and Flow Measurements at the Lee's Ferry Gage
 September 5, 1978

<u>Time</u>	<u>Glen Canyon Hourly Releases in cubic feet per second</u>	<u>Lee's Ferry Gage in cubic feet per second</u>
2400	19,700	19,860
0100	12,100	16,920
0200	10,400	14,190
0300	9,880	12,220
0400	9,750	11,040
0500	9,880	10,330
0600	11,200	10,210
0700	12,400	10,700
0800	16,600	12,220
0900	25,500	17,160
1000	28,300	22,000
1100	29,800	24,880
1200	30,000	26,070
1300	27,900	26,970
1400	31,100	27,370
1500	27,100	27,230
1600	27,400	27,300
1700	30,100	27,100
1800	27,500	27,030
1900	27,900	26,830
2000	28,200	26,970
2100	29,000	26,830
2200	26,800	26,770
2300	23,700	24,880
2400	17,200	22,650

Future with Uprated Generators

<u>Time</u>	<u>Glen Canyon Hourly Releases in cubic feet per second</u>	<u>Lee's Ferry Gage in cubic feet per second</u>
2400	13,600	20,500
0100	12,100	16,900
0200	10,400	14,300
0300	9,880	12,400
0400	9,750	11,200
0500	9,880	10,600
0600	11,200	10,600
0700	12,400	11,100
0800	16,600	12,600
0900	25,500	16,400
1000	26,300	20,800
1100	27,800	23,800
1200	28,000	25,800
1300	27,900	26,800
1400	31,100	28,100
1500	29,100	29,100
1600	29,400	29,200
1700	33,700	30,300
1800	29,900	31,100
1900	29,900	30,500
2000	28,200	29,800
2100	27,000	28,700
2200	24,800	27,400
2300	21,700	25,400
2400	17,200	22,500

As can be seen from the figure and the table, the differences between the dam releases and the flow being recorded at Lee's Ferry is the reduction in the peak flow. The new releases from the dam would cause an increase in flow at Lee's Ferry. This corresponds to a vertical rise in the river of .2 of a foot or approximately two inches. Downstream from Lee's Ferry, the differences would diminish to zero.

Figure 1 also shows that there would be no change in low flows.

B. Terrestrial

The proposed increase in maximum release capabilities would result in only minor increase in wetted area downstream (see figures 3-6). These figures represent the relationship between flow and wetted perimeter (channel width) at selected locations between Lee's Ferry and Glen Canyon Dam. Figure 7 describes the location of each cross-section. Since absolute maximum releases are projected to occur for short durations, the effects of this higher flow would rapidly diminish downstream. On the average, approximately two feet of additional terrestrial environment would be inundated, therefore no significant impact would occur to terrestrial species or their habitat. Similarly, no impact would occur to historical or archaeological resources which are known to occur well away from the area of impact.

C. Aquatic

Based on a physical habitat simulation model, essentially no change in available usable area for aquatic life would occur at the higher release. Both water temperature and water quality would not be changed from present conditions. Extreme low flows (1,000 - 3,000 ft³/s) have been identified as the limiting flows to aquatic life. Since the duration and periodicity of these flows would not be altered, no additional impact to aquatic resources would occur.

D. Recreation

The data also indicates an average increase in velocity of .16 feet per second at the higher releases. This, coupled with the fact that there would be little change in wetted perimeter and no change in low flows, means recreation on the river would not be negatively affected.

E. Endangered Species

After reviewing the data, most of the effects of the increase have been shown to occur above Lee's Ferry and are not significant; therefore, no change in the environment is expected to occur below Lee's Ferry. Since no impacts are expected to occur through the Canyon, no impacts would occur to the humpback chub.

F. Floodplain and Wetlands

No floodplain or wetlands encroachment would result from the uprating of the generating capacity at the Glen Canyon Powerplant; therefore, no action under Executive Order 11888 (Floodplain Management) or Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) is necessary.

IV. Agencies and Persons Consulted

FIGURE 1

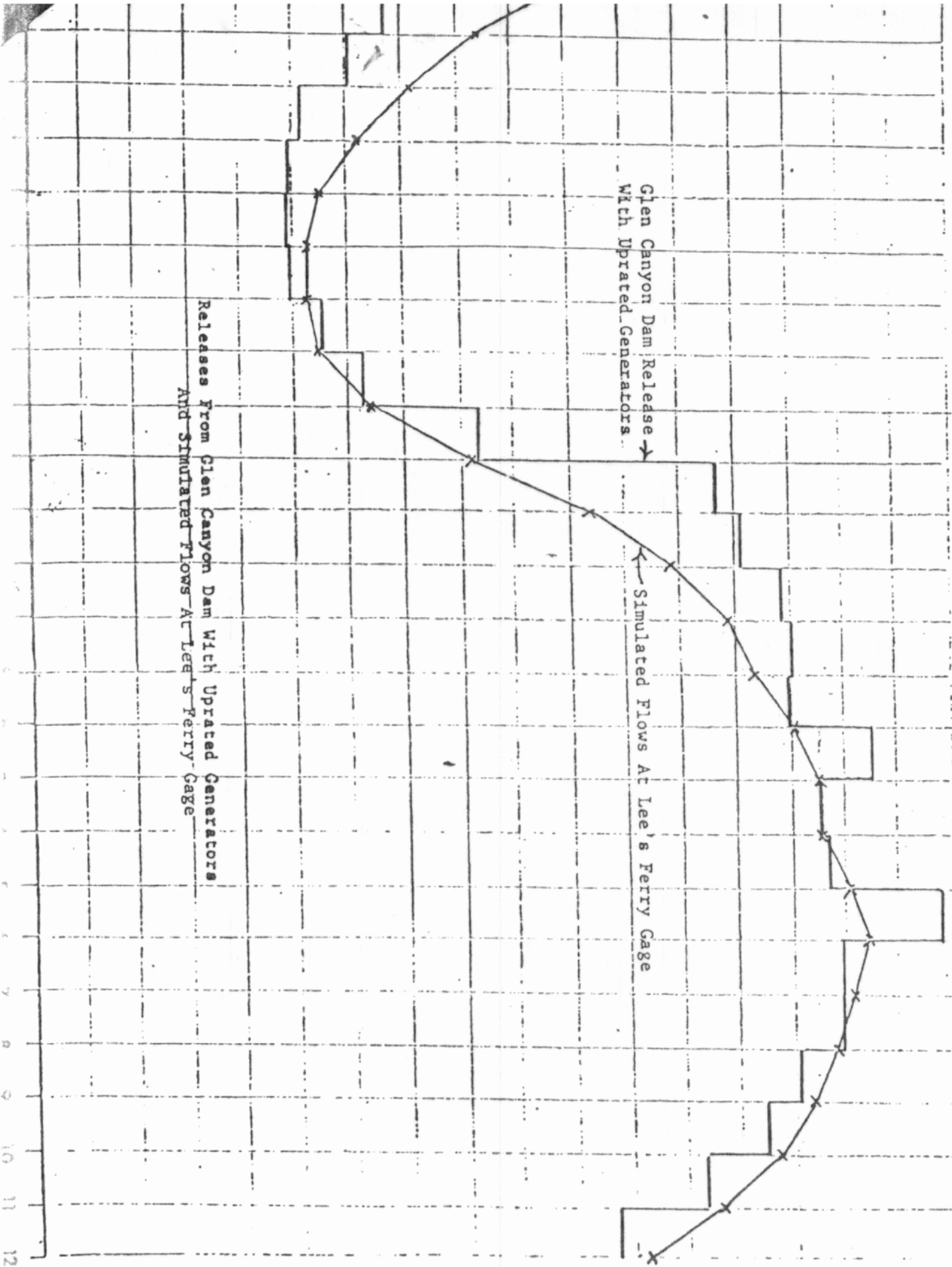
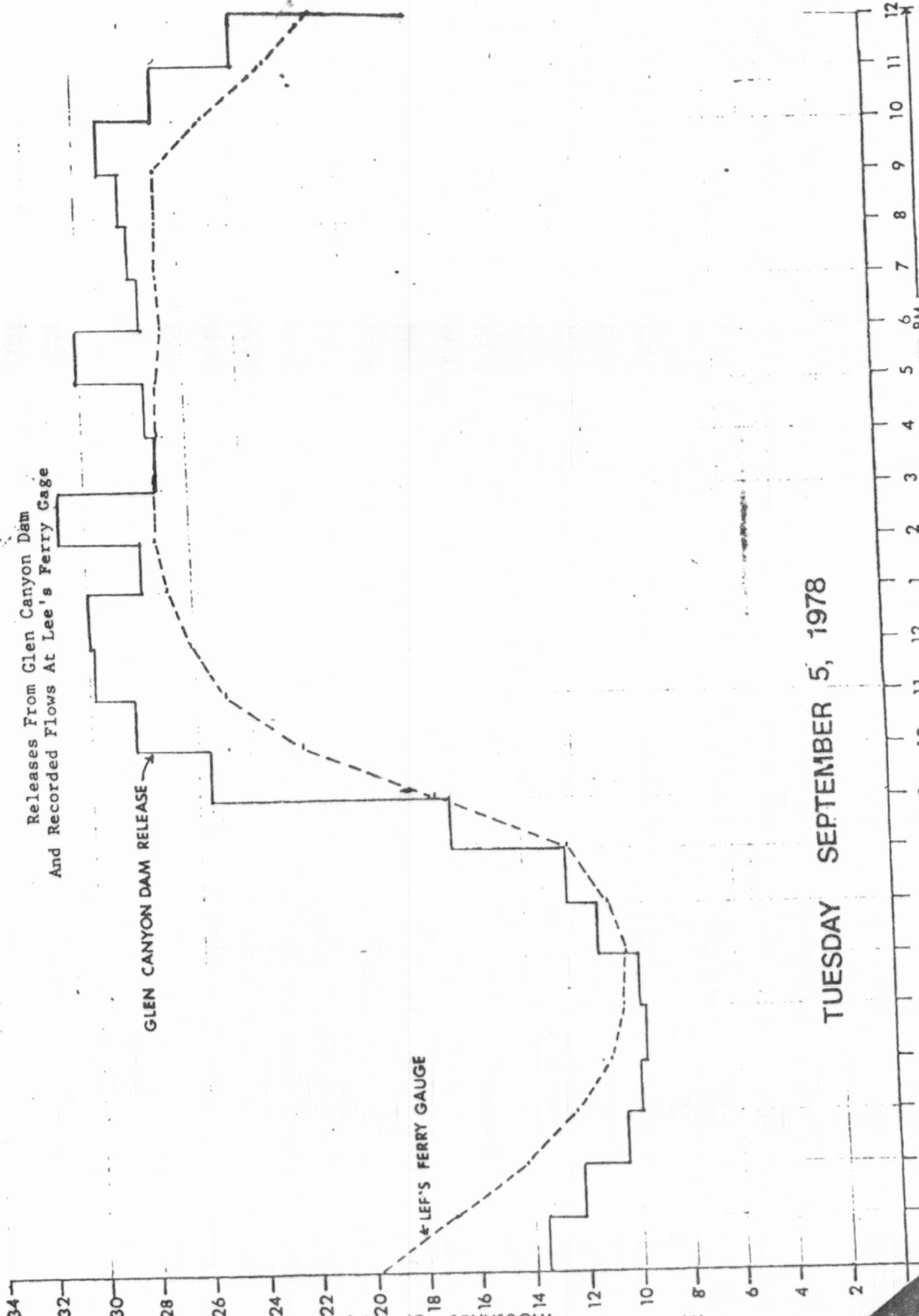


FIGURE 2

Releases From Glen Canyon Dam
And Recorded Flows At Lee's Ferry Gage



TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 1978

Discharge (CFS)

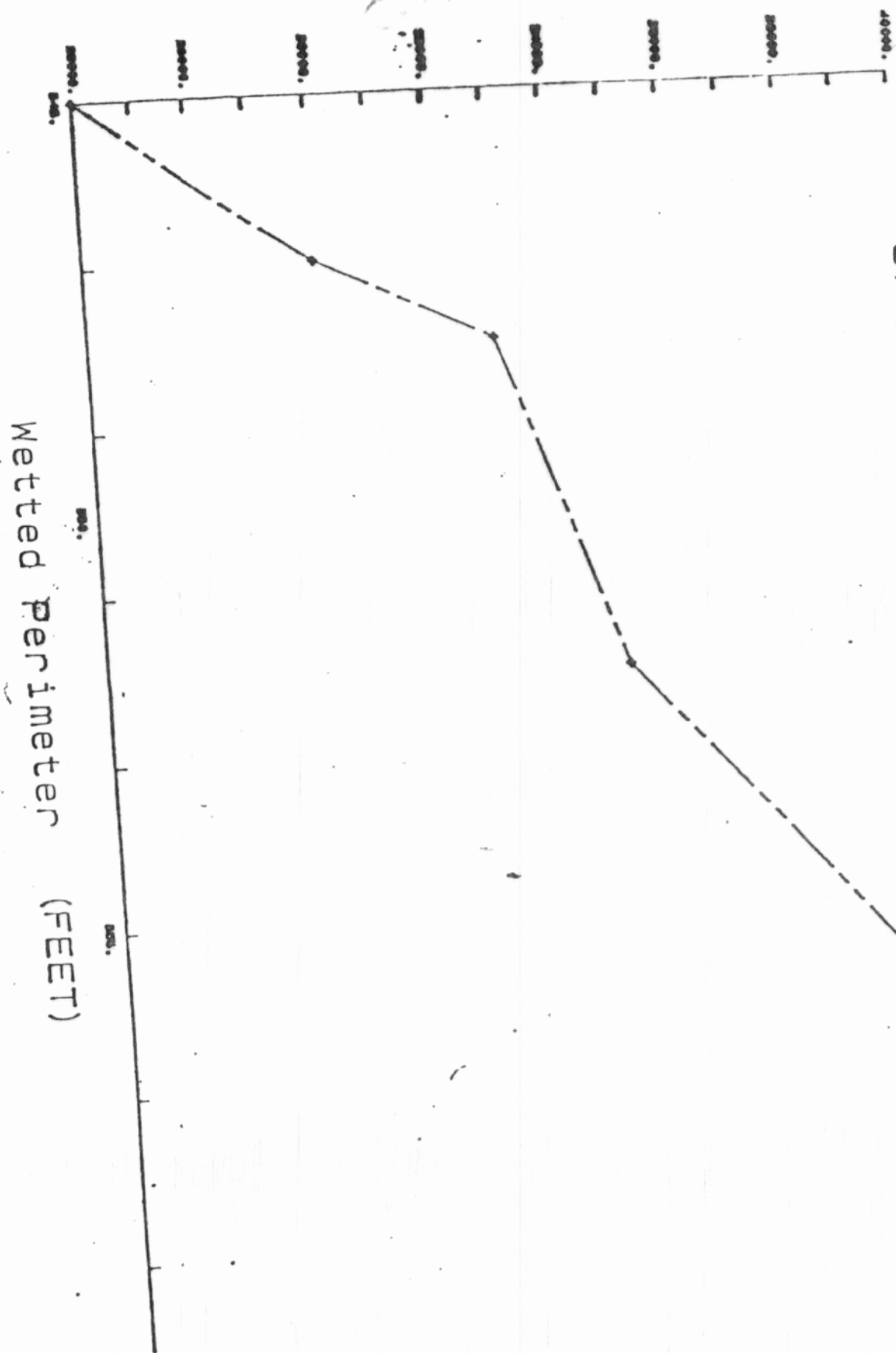
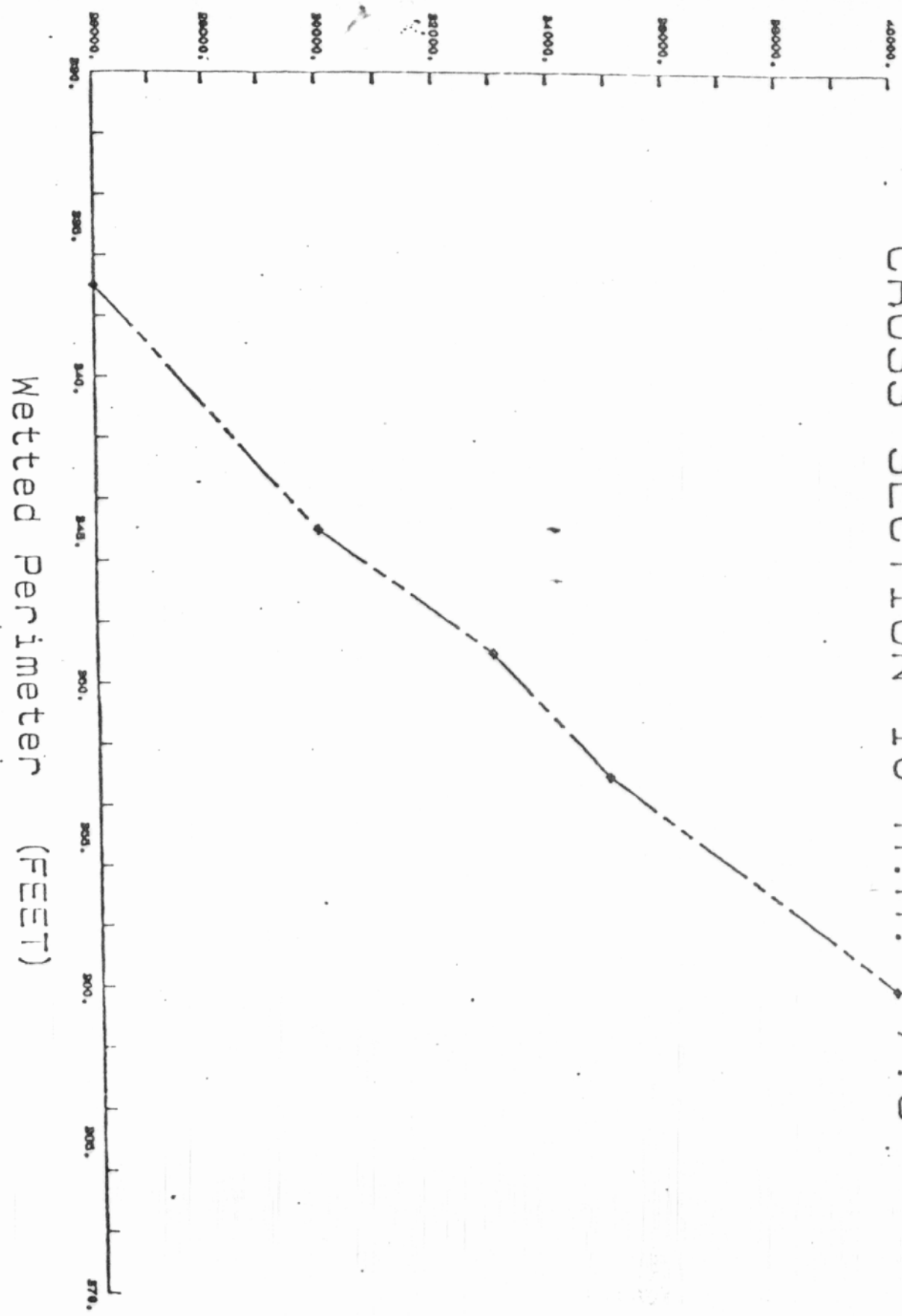


FIGURE 3
CROSS SECTION 5 R.M. 3.9

FIGURE 4

CROSS SECTION 10 P.M. 7.8



Discharge (CFS)

FIGURE 5

CROSS SECTION 15 R.M. 11.5

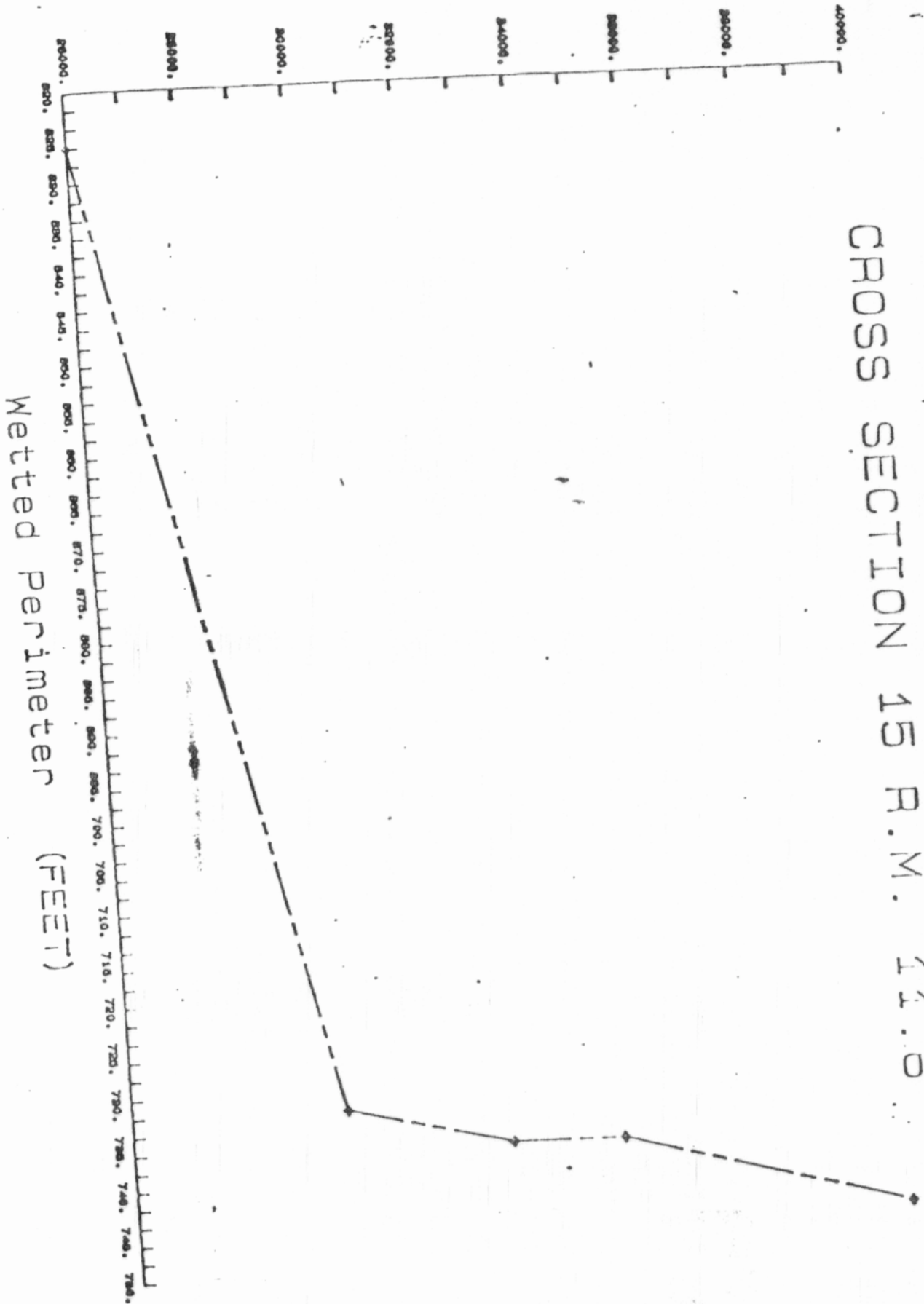
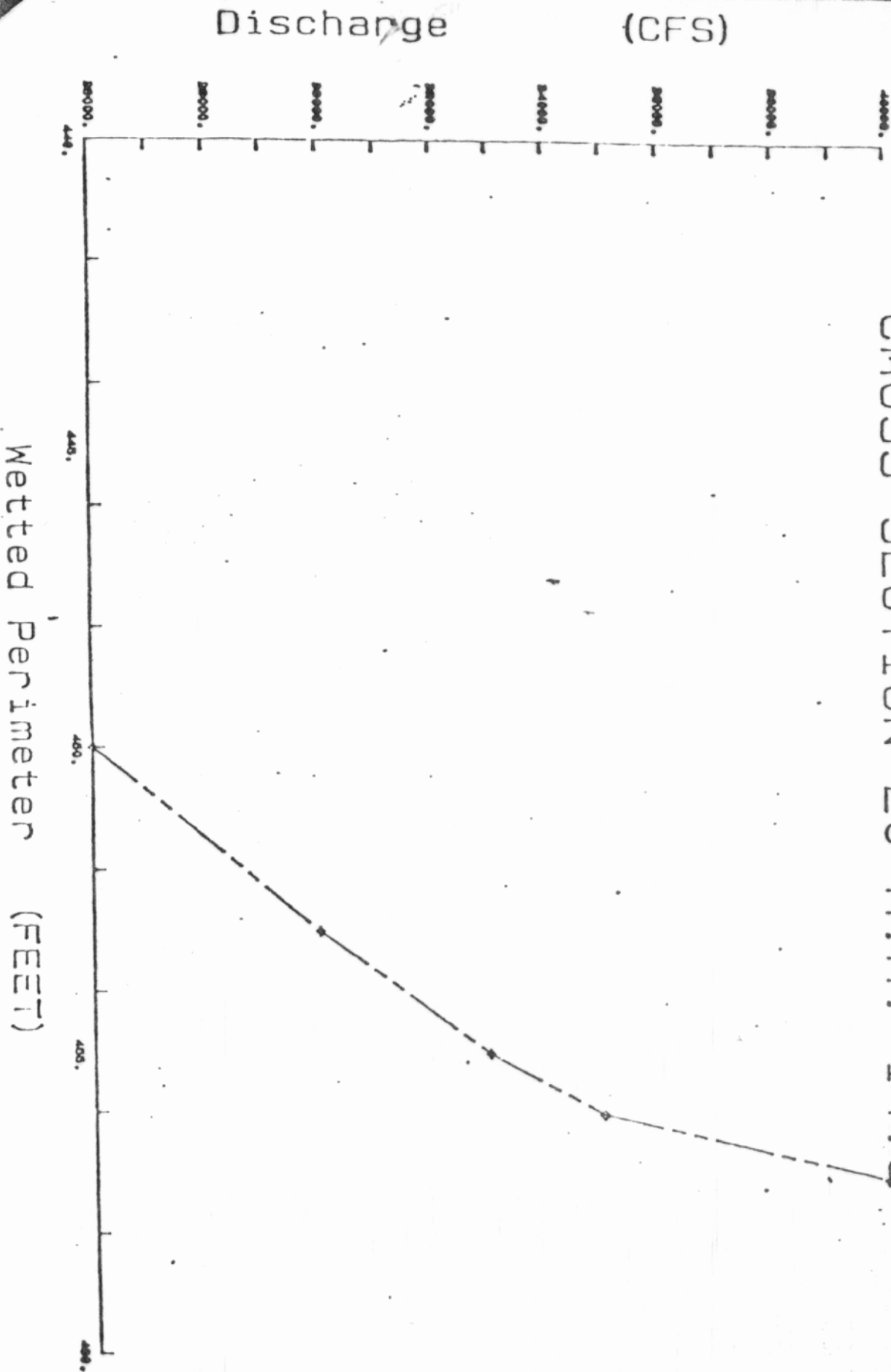


FIGURE 6

CROSS SECTION 20 R.M. 14.6



GLEN CANYON DAM AXIS

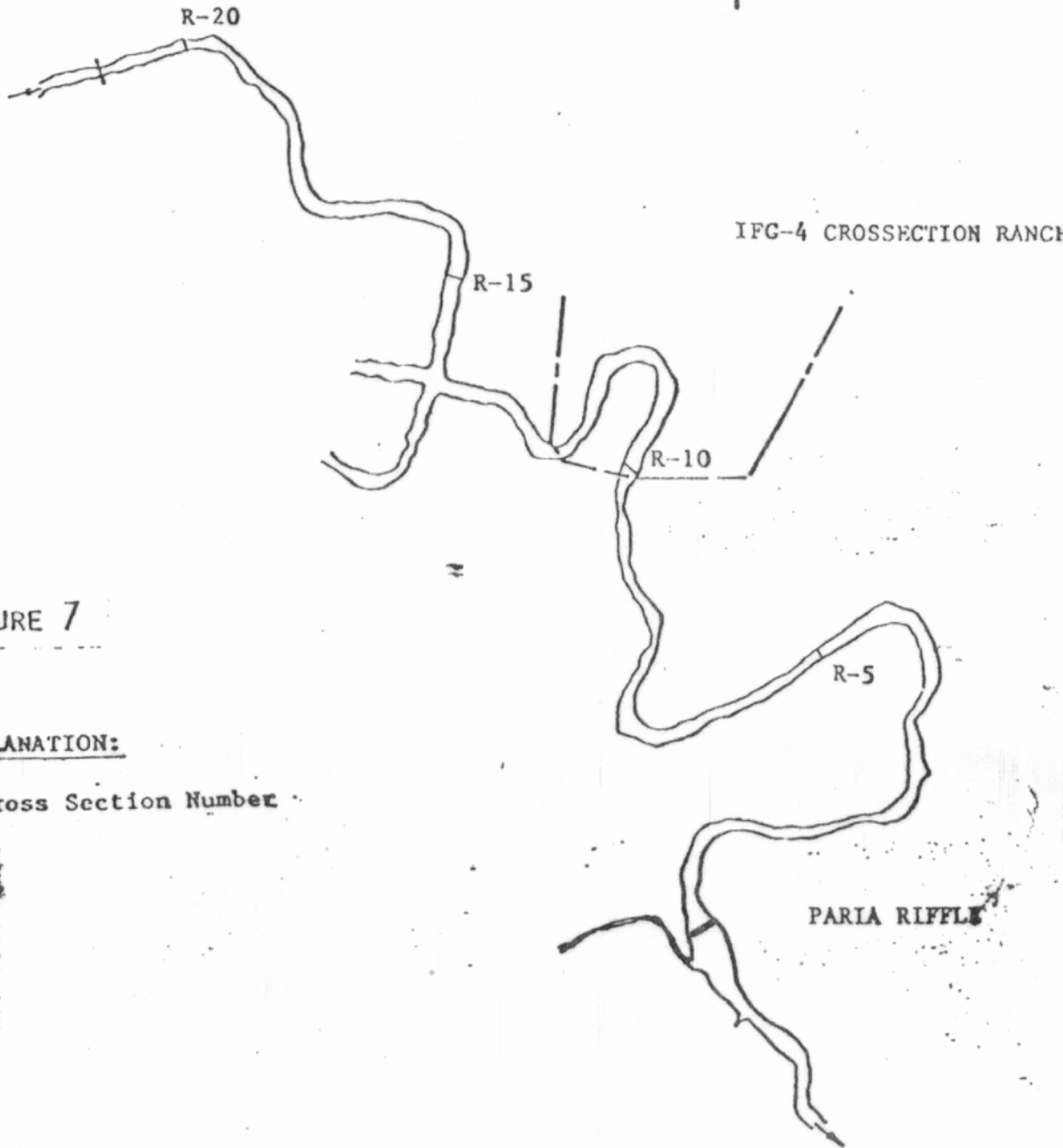
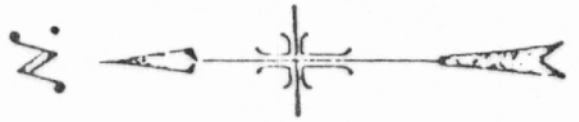


FIGURE 7

EXPLANATION:

R=Cross Section Number

COLORADO RIVER - ARIZONA
LEE'S FERRY TO GLEN CANYON DAM AXIS
WETTED PERIMETER CROSS SECTION LOCATIONS

MAXIMUM RELEASE OF WATER FROM GLEN CANYON DAM
FOR EACH MONTH FROM SEPT 1964 TO SEPT 1981
AND EACH DAY RELEASE EXCEEDED 28,000 c.f.s.

Date	c.f.s.	Lake Elevation	Date	c.f.s.	Lake Elevation
1964 Sept 2	7,150		1965 June 1	41,243	
Oct 16	5,900		2	38,315	
Nov 16	6,200		3	38,365	
*Dec 30	13,500	3491.94	4	38,215	
			5	40,425	
1965 Jan 27	9,300		6	48,505	
Feb 12	15,100		7	48,405	
Mar 17	27,175		8	43,435	
April 10	30,375		9	41,100	
11	28,400		10	40,875	
22	30,980		11	48,055	
23	37,775		12	55,415	
24	35,875		13	55,365	
25	35,350		14	55,290	
26	45,330		*15	55,735	3492.81
27	42,660		16	35,255	
28	36,175		17	35,469	
29	35,825		18	45,165	
30	32,450		19	45,250	
May 3	45,605		20	45,190	
4	50,905		21	45,540	
5	40,200		22	46,060	
6	40,225		23	46,110	
7	47,400		24	45,960	
8	47,650		25	45,440	
9	39,375		26	30,390	
10	36,550		July 31	16,900	
11	36,325		Aug 5	16,850	
12	32,000		Sept 11	16,950	
16	51,925		Oct 21	19,450	
17	32,180		Nov 4	17,900	
18	29,105		Dec 28	18,700	
20	37,325				
21	41,325		1966 Jan 26	20,750	
22	42,615		Feb 16	19,750	
23	53,275		Mar 17	19,650	
24	54,975		Apr 27	20,582	
25	54,675		*May 18	20,900	3543.47
26	54,850		June 2	20,423	
27	54,650		July 13	18,836	
28	54,350		Aug 17	17,725	
29	52,205		Sept 24	18,836	
30	51,880		Oct 31	18,420	
31	42,643		Nov 10	20,215	
			Dec 22	16,920	

*High water release for the year

Date	c.f.s.	Lake Elevation	Date	c.f.s.	Lake Elevation
1967 Jan 3	19,110		1971 Jan 7	24,000	
Feb 15	15,600		Feb 26	21,425	
Mar 9	18,450		Mar 2	21,775	
*Apr 19	24,400	3509.10	Apr 5	29,000	
May 11	21,530		May 24	28,600	
June 24	21,005		May 25	28,240	
July 6	18,835		May 26	28,400	
Aug 8	17,400		Jun 18	30,000	
Sept 7	17,575		Jun 25	28,600	
Oct 31	15,200		Jun 28	28,160	
Nov 22	19,400		July 12	29,500	
Dec 15	20,690		Aug 3	28,360	
			16	28,360	
1968 Jan 22	21,950		23	29,200	
Feb 9	19,150		25	28,240	
Mar 29	24,840		26	28,120	
*Apr 14	26,960	3516.63	*Aug 30	31,200	3617.42
May 7	26,600		Sept 1	29,750	
June 20	25,840		11	28,160	
July 19	26,360		13	28,760	
Aug 28	24,800		14	29,150	
Sept 11	21,670		15	28,320	
Oct 17	19,395		16	28,920	
Nov 20	19,605		Oct 14	22,825	
Dec 19	21,250		Nov 15	27,080	
			Dec 31	26,600	
1969 Jan 24	20,970		1972 Jan 31	26,400	
Feb 1	23,000		Feb 1	26,560	
Mar 14	23,320		Mar 8	16,340	
Apr 21	24,720		Apr 14	28,960	
*May 14	26,800	3559.57	May 11	29,163	
June 6	26,600		12	29,447	
July 1	25,200		15	29,163	
Aug 11	25,280		16	28,879	
Sept 8	23,200		23	30,158	
Oct 30	21,635		24	29,873	
Nov 13	22,160		25	30,726	
Dec 4	24,800		26	29,873	
			31	29,021	
1970 Jan 8	23,600		Jun 1	30,200	
Feb 11	21,620		2	32,100	
Mar 10	19,920		8	29,000	
Apr 24	27,440		13	29,450	
May 20	27,280		15	30,450	
Jun 25	26,840		27	38,680	
*July 17	27,760	3601.63	28	28,000	
Aug 26	26,240		July 27	31,900	
Sept 2	27,160		31	29,250	
Oct 22	18,485				
Nov 24	20,200				
Dec 22	26,000				

*High water release for the year

1972 Continued			1973		
Date	c.f.s.	Lake Elevation	Date	c.f.s.	Lake Elevation
Aug 2	29,760		Jan 20	28,640	
7	30,700		22	29,645	
8	29,550		23	29,071	
9	31,650		24	29,358	
*10	32,800	3613.48	25	28,640	
11	29,600		26	29,645	
14	31,550		27	29,645	
15	30,350		29	28,927	
16	28,840		31	29,502	
17	29,100		Feb 20	29,358	
18	30,850		21	29,502	
21	31,900		Mar 22	29,358	
22	30,750		23	29,645	
28	29,800		25	28,927	
29	30,100		26	29,645	
30	28,080		27	29,933	
Sept 14	29,850		28	30,076	
15	29,450		29	29,645	
16	28,480		30	29,645	
18	28,800		Apr 2	29,645	
Oct 16	27,080		3	29,645	
Nov 30	26,200		4	29,502	
Dec 6	28,640		5	29,645	
7	28,200		6	29,502	
11	29,400		9	29,071	
12	28,480		10	29,693	
13	29,950		11	29,838	
14	29,750		12	29,838	
15	28,760		13	29,548	
18	28,280		14	29,693	
19	28,680		15	29,257	
21	30,100		16	29,403	
22	28,480		17	29,838	
27	29,200		18	29,548	
28	28,680		19	29,693	
29	29,300		20	29,257	
30	30,000		21	29,403	
			22	28,822	
			23	29,403	
1973 Jan 2	28,879		24	29,257	
3	28,879		25	29,112	
4	28,737		26	29,257	
5	29,447		27	28,677	
6	29,305		28	29,403	
8	29,645		29	29,112	
9	29,502		30	29,693	
10	29,215		May 1	28,967	
11	29,933		17	28,353	
12	30,220		18	28,927	
15	29,215		19	28,927	
16	28,353		*June 5	30,817	3619.76
17	29,645		6	30,256	
18	29,215		7	29,414	
19	29,215		8	30,536	
			11	28,853	

*High water release for the year

Date	c.f.s.	Lake Elevation	Date	c.f.s.	Lake Elevation
1973 Continued			1974 Aug 24	29,306	
June 26	28,539		25	28,109	
27	29,315		26	28,375	
July 5	28,359		28	28,508	
11	28,086		Sept 25	25,609	
Aug 21	26,309		Oct 30	24,531	
Sept 5	18,734		Nov 6	28,306	
Oct 25	21,026		26	28,576	
Nov 27	24,126		27	28,710	
Dec 17	23,048		Dec 16	28,036	
1974 Jan 2			1975 Jan 10	28,576	
3	29,250		11	28,980	
4	29,384		12	28,845	
5	28,710		13	29,384	
7	29,654		21	28,441	
8	29,250		Feb 10	26,362	
9	28,171		Mar 27	23,992	
10	28,306		Apr 28	21,295	
*11	29,924	3647.32	May 7	28,845	
12	28,171		8	29,115	
21	29,250		27	28,171	
Feb 25	21,700		Jun 4	29,306	
Mar 28	23,452		5	28,109	
Apr 23	21,430		6	28,375	
May 13	28,242		13	28,109	
28	28,375		16	29,306	
June 17	28,036		23	28,167	
24	28,167		30	38,561	
25	28,167		Jul 1	28,823	
26	28,561		3	28,298	
27	28,692		5	28,167	
28	28,430		6	28,692	
July 1	28,167		7	28,430	
2	28,198		8	28,823	
8	28,561		9	28,954	
9	28,430		10	28,561	
10	28,298		11	28,298	
11	28,167		14	28,518	
16	28,430		17	28,518	
17	29,439		18	28,780	
18	28,774		19	28,256	
19	29,306		21	28,780	
22	29,173		22	28,387	
24	28,375		23	28,911	
25	28,508		27	28,649	
26	28,242		29	29,435	
Aug 1	28,774		31	28,515	
14	28,109		Aug 5	28,911	
20	29,040		6	28,911	
22	28,375		7	28,780	
23	28,774		8	28,649	
			*9	29,566	3674.27

*High water release for the year

Date	c.f.s.	Lake Elevation	Date	c.f.s.	Lake Elevation
1975 Aug 10	28,387		1977 Feb 1	22,662	
11	28,649		Mar 2	29,221	
19	28,125		3	28,144	
26	28,911		Apr 18	17,420	
29	28,387		May 2	17,420	
Sept 4	28,387		Jun 27	29,491	
9	28,518		Jul 7	28,009	
11	28,125		8	28,413	
Oct 6	28,780		18	28,278	
Nov 11	27,994		19	29,221	
Dec 17	28,256		22	28,278	
18	28,125		25	28,413	
20	28,256		31	28,144	
			Aug 1	29,625	
1976 Jan 14	28,256		2	28,682	
19	28,256		3	29,087	
Feb 10	25,767		4	28,548	
Mar 12	28,387		8	28,952	
Apr 26	24,886		12	29,087	
May 14	28,074		13	29,491	
19	29,042		15	28,817	
Jun 3	28,125		16	30,164	
7	28,518		17	29,760	
8	28,911		18	29,760	
9	28,256		19	29,567	
10	28,387		20	28,885	
29	28,125		22	29,704	
*Jul 6	29,304	3672.28	23	29,294	
9	28,125		24	29,704	
26	28,387		25	30,250	
28	28,387		26	29,021	
Aug 30	28,387		Sep 1	30,114	
Sep 10	27,732		2	29,567	
Oct 28	25,683		* 6	30,933	3641.52
Nov 28	24,886		7	30,523	
Dec 30	28,340		8	30,387	
			Oct 6	21,985	
1977 Jan 3	28,606		Nov 21	26,727	
5	29,004		Dec 20	26,865	
6	29,221				
7	28,818		1978*Jan 19	31,155	3626.95
8	28,413		20	28,664	
10	28,278		23	30,879	
11	29,356		24	30,187	
14	28,548		31	29,356	
17	29,760		Feb 1	28,425	
18	28,413		Mar 3	25,654	
19	28,009		Apr 21	22,914	
24	28,144		May 26	27,280	
25	28,298		Jun 5	28,475	
27	28,682		Jun 26	28,144	
29	28,682		Jul 10	27,066	
30	29,356				

*High water release for the year

Date	c.f.s.	Elevation	Date	c.f.s.	Elevation
1978 Continued			1979 Feb 1	30,602	
Aug 7	28,548		2	29,079	
8	28,009		3	28,941	
15	28,144		5	29,356	
16	28,548		6	29,356	
17	28,144		7	29,771	
21	29,087		15	29,218	
22	29,760		16	28,526	
23	29,625		Mar 2	26,727	
24	29,760		Apr 9	23,061	
25	29,087		May 23	24,886	
28	28,009		Jun 13	28,515	
31	29,895		Jul 11	28,160	
Sep 4	28,202		13	28,031	
5	31,069		23	28,290	
6	29,431		27	28,548	
7	29,841		31	29,194	
8	30,660		Aug 1	29,194	
10	29,294		2	28,548	
11	28,065		4	28,548	
Oct 19	26,154		5	28,160	
Nov 20	26,563		6	28,935	
Dec 18	28,387		7	29,064	
20	28,941		8	28,677	
27	28,911		17	28,419	
28	29,495		20	28,677	
29	28,941		26	28,290	
			28	28,677	
1979 Jan 2	28,526		Sept 4	28,031	
3	29,079		6	28,419	
4	29,356		Oct 29	25,190	
5	30,048		Nov 1	25,319	
6	28,249		Dec 26	26,946	
8	30,187				
9	29,910		1980 Jan 28	28,387	
10	28,526		29	28,640	
11	28,526		30	28,387	
12	28,526		Feb 5	25,898	
15	30,602		Mar 19	24,932	
16	29,771		Apr 13	25,243	
17	30,187		May 31	25,381	
18	28,526		Jun 6	28,945	
19	29,910		8	28,691	
22	29,356		9	28,945	
23	28,664		10	28,313	
24	28,526		11	28,062	
25	30,048		14	35,358	
26	29,218		15	28,062	
*29	31,571	3629.37	16	34,932	
30	29,771		17	39,357	
31	29,633		18	39,381	

*High water release for the year

Date	c.f.s.	Elevation	Date	c.f.s.	Elevation
1980 Continued					
Jun 23	44,907				
*24	48,998	3700.21			
25	31,160				
26	37,661				
27	37,786				
28	37,912				
29	37,661				
30	37,661				
Jul 1	37,786				
2	37,410				
3	31,892				
4	30,418				
5	30,543				
6	30,418				
7	30,167				
8	29,813				
10	28,313				
11	28,187				
12	28,313				
16	28,438				
22	28,187				
Aug 9	28,691				
18	28,309				
22	28,181				
Sep 5	27,290				
Oct 6	24,872				
Nov 15	25,448				
Dec 10	27,515				
1981					
Jan 20	24,932				
Feb 1	26,869				
Mar 30	18,925				
Apr 3	22,482				
May 5	20,068				
Jun 29	20,450				
Jul 20	28,935				
29	28,290				
Aug 3	26,773				
Sept 9	26,160				

*High water release for the year