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# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

## news release

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For Release: July 27, 1989

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### INTERIOR SECRETARY LUJAN DIRECTS BUREAU OF RECLAMATION TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT OF GLEN CANYON DAM OPERATIONS

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan announces today that, he is directing the Bureau of Reclamation to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to determine the impact of operations of the Glen Canyon Dam on the downstream ecological and environmental resources within the Grand Canyon National Park and the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

"It is time to gather the facts about this issue, to give all interested parties a chance to explain their positions, and to do so in full view of the American people, states Lujan. The Department will use the EIS to comply with statutory requirements to produce hydropower, and to protect the Park's and the Recreation Area's resources for the enjoyment of future generations."

The dam is located on the Colorado River, near the Arizona-Utah border, within the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. It is approximately 15 miles upstream from Grand Canyon National Park. Lake Powell, the key feature of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, is located behind the Dam. The National Park Service operates both areas, while the Bureau of Reclamation is responsible for the Dam. Both bureaus are within the Department of the Interior.

These bureaus, along with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Western Area Power Administration have been sponsoring studies to determine whether the Dam's operations could be affecting the Park and its immediate environment, including the habitat for the humpback chub -- an endangered species. The studies will be continued and can now be built upon by initiating formal public involvement.

The Secretary also noted that this issue is an example of an opportunity to balance energy and environment needs. During the past year, Glen Canyon Dam produced over 4 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, or the equivalent of about 6.7 million barrels of oil. This power is produced without any air pollution.

The Secretary made his decision after achieving a consensus recommendation from the Acting Assistant Secretaries for Water and Science and Fish and Wildlife and Parks. He also consulted with representatives of the Colorado River Basin States, power users, the environmental community and Members of Congress.

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