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Corps releases water to meet electrical demand during cold snap

Portland, Ore. - Reservoir regulators at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers moved quickly today to provide more water for power generation, anticipating increased regional demands for electricity during the oncoming cold snap.

According to Cindy Henriksen, Chief of the Reservoir Control Center at the Corps' Northwestern Division headquarters in Portland, the additional water is being released through dam powerhouses at Libby Dam in Montana and Dworshak Dam in Idaho.

"This action simply ensures more electricity is available to meet the needs of residents throughout the Northwest," said Henriksen. She expects the additional water releases will continue throughout the weekend.

Libby Dam outflows will increase nearly 60 percent, from a current 13,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 22,000 cfs by early Thursday morning. At Dworshak Dam, incremental releases began Monday and will increase to approximately 10,000 cfs by tomorrow.

Additional flows at Libby Dam are consistent with the recently-announced operating procedures known as VARQ and pose no flooding risk, said Henriksen. The additional power generation is being coordinated with Bonneville Power Administration and BC Hydro.

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