

Flatiron Water Delivery Pipe or Penstock Recoating

Project Description

Two water delivery pipes, or penstocks, in service since 1954, drop water down 1064 feet through a mile of pipeline to the Flatiron hydro-electric Power Plant, 50 miles northwest of Denver, Colo. The Flatiron Penstocks are an integral part of the Colorado-Big Thompson water diversion and delivery project, making power generation possible at the Flatiron Power Plant and providing supplemental water to 720,000 people in northeastern Colorado.



The protective coating on the inside and outside of the pipes is over 50-years old and in need of replacement. Recoating the pipeline includes removing the old paint from the exterior and interior of the pipes and safely handling and disposing of it. It is lead-based and the packing associated with the pipes might contain asbestos. Once the coating and packing is safely removed, a new coating and packing will be applied. The recoating work also includes installing ultrasonic flow meters on the pipes to improve water accounting and power plant efficiency.

Project Benefits

Completing the recoating on the pipes will:

- Reduce long-term operational costs by utilizing a more efficient and temperature resistant paint product
- Maintain the structural integrity and increase reliability by extending service life an additional 50 years
- Continue to provide 94.5 Megawatts of low cost Federal power at the Flatiron Hydroelectric Plant
- Improve water accountability and power plant efficiencies, saving tax payer dollars.



Budget Information

Recovery funding: \$14 million.

For more information

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