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BAKER RIVER POWER PLANT WILL START EARLY NEXT WEEK

DAM IS FILLING UP RAPIDLY AND WATER WILL BE AVAILABLE TO START OPERATIONS BY MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK

The new 40,000 h.p. power plant of the Puget Sound Power & Light company on the Baker river will start operations early next week according to a statement made today by W. D. Shannon, general manager for the Stone & Webster company for the Pacific coast. The huge dam has been filling up rapidly since the heavy rains of the past week and present indications are that the water for starting the turbines in the power plant will be available by the middle of next week. The plant will be started as soon as the water is high enough in the dam to keep it going, so as soon as the water reaches the proper stage the large gates of the tunnel will be opened and the new plant put into operation.

On account of the low water in the river the dam filled very slowly for the first week but the heavy rains have caused a small freshet in the Baker river and the lake has been rising quite rapidly since the first of the week. This morning the water had about forty feet to rise before it would be high enough to start the wheels turning in the power plant, and at the present stage of water it will take about five days to bring the dam up to the necessary level. The water had been coming up almost ten feet a day for the past few days, but from now on every foot of raise will mean a much larger area to cover, so the height of the water will increase more slowly. However, indications are that by Wednesday or Thursday of next week the water will be

above the intake and the company will have a chance to try out the machinery in the power plant.

While all the machinery in the power house is in place and ready for operation, it is too much to expect that it will run smoothly on the first trial, so it will probably be a week or ten days later before all adjustments can be made and everything be running smoothly. All the machinery has been installed by experts and it is expected that there will be very few adjustments to be made before it will be running perfectly.

Present indications are that the new power plant will be in operation before the end of next week, and that soon afterwards Concrete will be using Baker river power for lights and power. As the service has not been very satisfactory for the past month, it is hoped that there will be a change for the better when the local plant is in regular operation.