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Background information on Minidoka-Palisades Project

The Minidoka-Palisades Project is an integral part of the highly successful agricultural economy of south east Idaho. A complex system of storage, diversion, and distribution facilities provide a water supply to nearly 1.2 million acres. Storage reservoirs serving the northern part of the Project are Henrys Lake, Island Park, and Grassy Lake. They are on the Henrys Fork of the Snake River. Storage facilities serving the Southern part of the project are Jackson Lake Dam, American Falls Dam and Reservoir, and Palisades Dam and Reservoir. Ririe Dam was constructed by the Corps of Engineers.

Construction began in 1904 on Minidoka Dam. The most recent construction by Reclamation (except for Teton Dam) was done in the mid 1950's when Palisades Dam and the North Side Pumping Division were constructed. The Corps of Engineers constructed Ririe Reservoir in the late 60's.

The project contains 3 power plants, on Palisades Dam, Minidoka Dam, and American Falls Dam. The power plant at American Falls is owned and operated by the Idaho Power Company. The combined capacity of the other two power plants is 130 megawatts at the present time. A scheduled expansion of the Minidoka power plant will increase its rated capacity to 23 mw, from an original 13.4 mw (presently 11 due to outage of one unit.)

Contract negotiations are presently underway with the State of Wyoming to convey 33,000 acre feet of Palisades reservoir space to Wyoming, which Wyoming can use to enhance instream flows below Jackson Lake Dam. The rest of the uncommitted Project storage space (some 19,000 acre feet out of 1,200,000 acre feet from Palisades and all 80,500 acre feet from Ririe) is identified as replacement water for irrigation in conjunction with the Water rights settlement of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. The settlement, yet to be approved by Congress, provides that the water shall be conveyed without cost.

Some 63 contracting entities hold space in Jackson Lake, American Falls, or Palisades. Most hold space in more than one reservoir.

As of September 30, 1989, the project cost was as follows:

Total Costs	\$287,920,795
Allocated to:	
Power	14,405,283
Irrigation	77,436,728
Flood Control	64,466,969
Safety-of-Dams	119,900,198
Fish and Wildlife	1,630,143
Recreation	10,081,474

The unpaid Irrigation costs total \$23,704,595 and are accounted as follows:

Unpaid Palisades Costs:	\$2,254,710 (Power assistance is \$14,512,688)
North Side Pumping	8,047,602
Safety of Dams	7,361,829
Ririe Dam	5,616,554
Minor contracts	423,900