
Province of British Columbia

In this section of British Columbia the mines and smelters are the largest consumers of power.

KOOTENAY RIVER GENERATING STATIONS

The Kootenay River Plants are situated at Bonnington Falls about 11 miles below the City of Nelson.

The total length of the Kootenay River is about 350 miles, and the area of the watershed is 9,800 square miles. Practically the whole drainage area lies in high mountainous country, and the snowfall is heavy; the flow of water in the river depends almost entirely on the melting snow. The minimum flow at Bonnington Falls is 5,850 cu. ft. per sec., and occurs during the months of January and February. The maximum flow of 60,000 cu. ft. per sec. occurs during June and July, when the snow is melting most rapidly. About 9 miles above Bonnington Falls the Kootenay River emerges from Kootenay Lake, which is about 75 miles long with an average width of about 3 miles; it forms a splendid natural reservoir, which tends to equalize the flow in the river below the Lake.

BONNINGTON FALLS PLANT No. 1

This plant is situated at Lower Bonnington Falls and has a capacity of 4,000 H.P. under a normal working head of 34 feet.

The equipment consists of one unit of 2,000 H.P., and two units each of 1,000 H.P. The turbines are of the horizontal Victor type, and are provided with cylindrical gates.



Kootenay River Development. Bonnington Falls Plant No. 1 at Lower Bonnington Falls.