

These dams will be located at Mica Creek, on the northernmost part of the Columbia River; at the outlet of the Lower Arrow Lake, near Castlegar; and on the Duncan River, a northern tributary to Kootenay Lake. The projects will combine to control the great seasonal fluctuations of the Columbia's flow, thereby reducing flood hazards and increasing the power potential in both Canada and the United States.

The construction of these storage projects is only the first step in a series of developments planned for the river basin in Canada. The Mica Creek dam will ultimately produce 1.8 million kilowatts of power, and other projects located downstream from Mica in Canada and on the Kootenay River will bring the total basin potential to more than 4 million kilowatts of power. This additional hydro-electrical capacity represents about one-fifth of today's total for the whole of Canada. The favourable terms of the sale of power to the United States will permit power to be produced in Canada at much lower costs than would have otherwise been possible.

Canada will also benefit through improved flood control on the Columbia and Kootenay rivers, strengthening its foreign exchange position and increasing opportunities for employment both on the projects themselves and in industries in many parts of Canada supplying goods and services.

Preliminary contracts have been let by the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, the entity which will be responsible for the development programme in Canada, and major contract awards are expected shortly.