

THE DENVER POST

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 1949

Public Service Construction Starts



Denver Post Photo.

Steel construction in the generator unit of a 17-million-dollar steam power plant, to be built by the Public Service Company of Colorado along the Platte river in south Denver, got under way Monday. Company officials were on hand to see the first steel column swung into place. Shown above are (left to right): F. T. Parks, a company vice president; G. B. Buck, vice president; W. D. Virtue, vice president; L. P. Patterson, planning engineer with the company; J. E. Loiseau, president; H. H. Grayson, a construction worker, and Harry Thompson (in front of column), a construction worker.

Public Service Hoists First Girder Of \$17-Million Steam Electric Plant

By JOHN W. BUCHANAN.
Denver Post Staff Writer.

An orange-colored steel column slipped slowly into place and was bolted down on its concrete base Monday morning as above-ground structural work on the Public Service company's 17-million-dollar Arapahoe steam electric plant at 2601 South River drive got underway.

The ten-ton girder stood upright on a site that, less than 100 years ago, saw the teepee poles of Indian tribes which used to camp on that spot along the Platte river.

Present at the ceremony were J. E. Loiseau, president of the company, and other company officials. **1950 GOAL SET.**

The girder will become a part of the generating unit of the plant. Work is also under way on the smokestack, the boiler rooms and turbine building.

First units of the plant, set for completion in April, 1950, will have an initial capacity of 40,000 kilowatts. Units completed in 1951 will boost that to 80,000, and plans call eventually for a plant that will produce from 200,000 to 240,000 kilowatts of power. Cost of the initial 80,000 kilowatt capacity is 17 million dollars.

This initial capacity will produce 600 million kilowatt-hours of firm electric energy annually—as much as anticipated by the entire Colorado-Eg Thompson multiple-purpose project.

Each electric generator will be driven by 60,000 horsepower steam turbines, each as powerful as 600 modern automobiles. The tips of the longer blades in the turbines will travel at the speed of sound—as fast as modern jet fighter planes.

Each boiler will be as high as a ten-story building. Temperatures ranging as high as 3,200 degrees will evaporate a million and one-fourth gallons of water a day into steam at a pressure of 900 pounds a square inch. Boilers will be fired with nearly a ton of coal each minute.

Giant pumps will recirculate the steam through condensers at the rate of 86 million gallons of water a day—nearly as much as the average daily use of water in the entire city of Denver.

The Arapahoe plant construction is regarded by company officials as the major single job in the 75-million-dollar expansion program. Plans for construction of the plant got under way four years ago, and ground breaking took place this spring.

Contract for the construction was let to Ebasco Services of New York city, a firm which specializes in power plant construction.