



*For Immediate Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FORMALLY DECOMMISSIONS  
POSSUM KINGDOM LAKE HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY**

March 13, 2014 – Waco, TX – Today, the Brazos River Authority (BRA) received notice from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that, effective March 12, 2014, surrender of its FERC hydroelectric generation license at Possum Kingdom Lake is now complete. The process required decommissioning of the existing hydroelectric generating facility. Decommissioning involved nearly three years of construction to permanently disable the 73 year-old plant's hydroelectric functions, and required maintaining the ability to provide for water supply releases from the dam.

The decommissioning process was initiated in December of 2011, with a written application to FERC requesting authorization to permanently cease hydroelectric generation operations at the facility. To meet FERC requirements for surrender, the BRA was directed to permanently disable generation capability. This was accomplished by dismantling the project's two penstocks (large water pipes) that conveyed water from the reservoir to the turbines located inside the powerhouse. In addition, two 6,900 volt circuits which connected the project's generators to the electrical distribution grid were removed. In accordance with the FERC approved decommissioning process, these actions rendered the facility permanently incapable of generating or delivering power.

Included in the decommissioning project was installation of a controlled outlet conduit. This conduit is an 86-inch diameter pipe that allows the BRA to release water from the reservoir, without the necessity of opening the dam's floodgates, in order to provide water for beneficial uses throughout the basin.

The facility, put into service in 1941, ceased power production in 2007 after evaluation by several engineering firms identified safety issues with the electric generating infrastructure. In light of the extensive upgrades necessary to restore the aging facility for future use, the BRA began evaluating the feasibility of maintaining the hydroelectric capability. Ultimately, the BRA Board of Directors voted to apply for decommissioning after conducting extensive economic analysis which concluded that the required renovation, relicensing, and continued operation of the facility was no longer viable.

***About the Brazos River Authority***

The Brazos River Authority, with headquarters in Waco, is the oldest river authority in Texas. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1929, the Authority's 42,000 square-mile territory includes all or part of 70 counties; extending from the Texas-New Mexico border west of Lubbock to the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport.

The Authority built, owns, and operates three reservoirs (Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, and Limestone). In addition to these water supply reservoirs, the Authority contracts with the Corps of Engineers for the water supply storage space at eight federal multi-purpose flood control and water conservation reservoirs (Lakes Whitney, Belton, Proctor, Somerville, Stillhouse Hollow, Granger, Georgetown and Aquilla).

The Brazos River Authority operates a regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton and the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System for the City of Round Rock. The Authority also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Dime Box, Clute-Richwood, Sugar Land, Hutto and Liberty Hill.

The Authority owns and operates the East Williamson County Regional Water System for the City of Taylor. The Authority also operates potable water treatment plant for the cities of Dime Box and Leander.

The Authority engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River basin. As a member of the Texas Clean River Program, the Authority samples and tests water from 141 locations throughout the basin on either a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.

For further information on the Brazos River Authority, please contact Judi Pierce, Public Information Officer at 254-761-3103.