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NPSEN-BP (21 Nov 63) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Reactivation Report, Avon Bypass, Skagit River, Washington

U. S. Army Engr Dist, Seattle, Washington 13 MAY 1964

TO: Division Engineer, U. S. Army Engineer Division, North Pacific

1. This indorsement provides supplemental information with respect to comments in the 2nd Indorsement.

The 2nd Indorsement suggests that a 30-year level of flood protection may be too low for the area. The 30-year level of flood protection actually protects against 83 per cent of present-day flood damages. These flood damages are 75 per cent agricultural and only 25 per cent urban. Thus, the project is now required essentially for protection of agricultural lands. The flood peaks in the Skagit River valleys are sharp peaked and of short duration. Encroachment on the 2-feet of freeboard in the project planning could provide flood protection of up to 50-year frequency. This additional degree of protection can be readily developed in the urban areas which have public works organizations available for flood fighting.

2. The effect of upstream storage in the proposed basin plan of development with respect to flood control will be primarily to develop enhancement benefits. This storage can also achieve a 100-year or greater frequency of flood protection for the entire flood plain downstream from Sedro Woolley.

3. The interim Survey Report on Skagit River was mailed to the Division Engineer on 1 May. An extra copy is inclosed for information of OCE with respect to its possible effect on the Reactivation Report. The interim report adds little in the way of additional information on feasibility of upstream storage. The report does show that the Bypass Project retains its feasibility when considered as last added to upstream storage.

4. Evaluation of upstream storage will be a highly involved study requiring the coordinated efforts of several agencies. This study is now programmed for accomplishment as part of the Comprehensive Study for Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters. At least two to three years will be required to determine feasibility of upstream storage projects.

5. Since 1961, this office has been engaged in studies leading to the Reactivation Report and the inclosed Survey Report. These studies have been planned to develop timely completion of interim reports on projects necessary to satisfy urgent needs of the Skagit River basin. The projects are intended to fit into a comprehensive plan of basin development. If it is now determined that a study of upstream

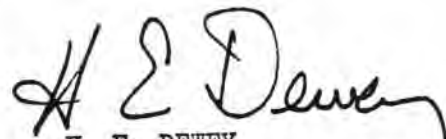
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storage should precede consideration of the recommended plan of improvement, then we believe a reexamination should be made of the entire concept of interim reports in the Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters Comprehensive Study. **We are certain that in other interim report submissions now planned, no other basin will have a comprehensive plan more specific than that for the Skagit River at this time.** This review should be made as soon as possible, because of the extensive interim report effort now underway in this office.

6. **With respect to the Reactivation Report, we have modified our proposed funding schedule to reduce the initial year's requirements from \$400,000 to \$80,000. This change has been made to undertake alignment studies necessary to establish a firm basis for local participation costs as the first item of work. After this determination is made, local interests will hold an election to vote on a bond issue to underwrite their costs. Until a positive affirmation of local interest capability for participation is received, we do not plan to undertake further studies. This revision adds one year to the completion time shown in the Reactivation Report schedule.**

7. Early advice is requested on whether the supplemental information herein is adequate to justify reactivation of the Bypass, or whether reactivation will have to await completion of studies of upstream storage. Arrangements have been made between Messrs. Holmes and Gedney for a meeting in the latter part of May, as suggested in the preceding indorsement.

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4. Skagit River Report and Appendix


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