

D R A F T

23 JUL 1975

Honorable Lloyd Meeds
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Meeds:

This is in further reply to your recent letter inclosing a copy of a letter from the Skagit County Board of Commissioners concerning four potential flood control projects in the Skagit River Valley, Washington. The individual status of these projects and potential for activation is discussed in the following paragraphs.

a. Upper Baker Project, Additional Flood Control Storage. As noted by the Skagit County Board of Commissioners, we have completed our studies on this proposal. An authorization report has been submitted by the Seattle District Engineer calling for an additional 58,000 acre-feet of flood control storage at Puget Sound Power and Light Company's Upper Baker Project, located on the Baker River. The report concludes that the trade-off of some hydroelectric power generation capability for flood control is economically feasible and environmentally acceptable. The proposal is endorsed by local interests and supported by the State of Washington and other Federal agencies. The District Engineer's report is currently under review by our North Pacific Division Engineer, with a public notice on the Division Engineer's findings scheduled to be released on 11 August 1975. Following further review by our office, the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, Federal agencies, the Governor of Washington, and the Office of Management and Budget, the

Incl 3

P004225

Honorable Lloyd Meeds

report will be submitted to Congress. Authorization is required by Congress ~~of~~ Federal compensation of Puget Sound Power and Light Company for power losses associated with the additional flood control storage. Assuming favorable action by Congress, this proposal could be implemented relatively soon after authorization.

b. Skagit River Levee and Channel Improvement Project. This project (authorized in 1966) involves improving existing levees and the channel in the lower Skagit River. Estimated total project cost is \$9,800,000 (1971 prices). The project was placed in a "deferred" status pending construction of the Avon Bypass or further upstream storage development. In light of the District Engineer's report on the Upper Baker project proposal, we expect that action toward reclassification of the project from a "deferred" to an "active" status will be initiated in the near future.

c. Sauk River Flood Control Project. The District Engineer's letter to you of 19 May 1975 (copy inclosed for ready reference) discussed this project and inclosed a copy of a draft resolution furnished Senator Warren G. Magnuson, at his request, which would provide authority for a feasibility study of this project.

d. Avon Bypass. This project involves diverting excess Skagit River flows above the delta into Padilla Bay. In 1971, the project was placed in a "deferred" status because Skagit County was unable to meet the requirements of local cooperation. Pending a change in position by the county, the project will remain in a "deferred" status.

Sincerely yours,

1 Incl
As stated

19 MAY 1975

Honorable Lloyd Meeds
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Meeds:

This is in reply to your recent letter concerning a letter you received from the Skagit County Commissioners, Washington, regarding flood control on the Sauk River.

A multiple-purpose storage project, including flood control, on the Sauk River was considered during the course of the interagency Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters Comprehensive Water and Related Land Resources Study, completed in 1971 by the Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission, and submitted to Congress in July 1974 by the Water Resources Council. This storage project, which has the potential for providing flood control and hydroelectric power benefits, was included in one of the two alternative plans formulated by the commission for the Skagit River basin. The other alternative plan called for the Sauk to remain undeveloped and be designated as a recreational river under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542.

The studies that were undertaken as part of the comprehensive investigation were preliminary in nature and not intended to determine the feasibility of the Sauk project. However, at the time of these studies, a storage project on the Sauk River appeared to merit further investigation. A new study would be required to determine if such a project is currently feasible under recent regulations that affect flood plain development.

A flood control dam on the Sauk River would substantially reduce the potential for major flood damages in the lower Skagit River basin and, together with other elements of Skagit County's comprehensive flood damage reduction plan, provide the level of protection desired by the county. If Congress should desire a feasibility study to be undertaken by the Corps, an investigation could be accomplished under the authority provided in the 1962 Flood Control Act for the Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters Study. However, because the Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission did not recommend a plan for the Skagit basin, a new resolution may be appropriate.

Incl 1
to Incl 3

P004227

NPSEN-PL-3P
Honorable Lloyd Meeds

Recently, we received a request similar to yours from Senator Warren G. Magnuson concerning Sauk River flood control. A copy of the draft resolution provided Senator Magnuson, at his request, is inclosed for your information.

Sincerely yours,

1 Incl (Lays)
As stated

RAYMOND J. EINEIGL
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

D R A F T

RESOLUTION

Resolved by the Committee on Public Works of the United States Senate that the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, created under Section 3 of the River and Harbor Act, approved 3 June 1902, be and is hereby requested, to review previous reports of the Chief of Engineers on Skagit River, Washington, including the report published as House Document No. 483, 89th Congress, 2d Session, with a view to determining whether any modifications of recommendations contained therein are desirable at the present time with respect to the provision of flood control and allied improvements.

Incl 1

P004229