



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PO BOX C-3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124

#404-77

6 MAY 1977

NPSEN-DB

SUBJECT: Skagit River Levees and Channel Improvements

Division Engineer, North Pacific

1. Our initial investigations for a General Design Memorandum on Skagit River Levees and Channel Improvements have revealed information that affects our previously scheduled planning. .
2. One of the major factors affecting this project, as originally formulated, was that the Avon Bypass Project authorized by the 1936 Flood Control Act would be constructed as a part of an overall Skagit Valley flood control plan. Because of marginal economic justification and little public support for the construction of the bypass, it is unlikely that construction will occur in the near future. Consequently, the scope and design for the Levees and Channel Improvement Project must be reformulated.
3. Under current criteria and guidance, a primary concern of the Levees and Channel Improvement Project should be urban flood damage reduction for Mount Vernon, Burlington and Sedro Woolley areas. At the time the Levee and Channel Improvement Project was formulated, increased flood protection for these areas did not appear justified. During the last decade, conditions in the area have changed considerably and the scope and level of flood damage reduction should be reevaluated. Local interests have expressed a strong desire for higher level flood protection for the urban areas of Mount Vernon and Burlington. Our current guidance also suggests 100-year or more flood control protection be considered for urban and suburban areas. In order to accommodate this need for considering a higher level of flood protection for the urban areas, more extensive surveys, foundation investigations, hydrology, hydraulic and economic studies will be required than were previously anticipated.
4. We are proceeding with survey work required for hydrology studies and other base studies. The hydrology studies will be started in the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 1977 and are expected to take about one year to complete.

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5. Request your concurrence in the following procedures: A plan of study will be submitted in May 1977 that will outline our planning activities and be a basis for revising previously scheduled milestone dates. The GDM submittal may recommend proceeding with two-stage construction. The levees and channels downstream of Mount Vernon would be the first stage construction starting (subject to funding) within one year of GDM submittal. A feature design memorandum would be prepared for the Mount Vernon upstream work to establish the optimum levee height and alinement prior to proceeding with preparation of plans and specifications. This procedure would reduce the possibility of unnecessarily delaying the downstream work while the detail plan for the more complex area at Mount Vernon-Burlington is being developed.



JOHN A. POTEAT
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer