

Hannah Hadley, Environmental Coordinator
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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August 5, 2014

Re: Comment on draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the Skagit River Flood Risk Management General Investigation Study.

Dear Ms. Hadley:

To my knowledge, the Skagit River has yet to have a "100-year flood", and this Skagitonian does not look forward to such.

AYK: The Skagit River has served as a transportation route, a source of water, a facility in which sewer plant outfall is disposed, a hydro-generation opportunity, and is a recreational facility, etc., with "vistas".
Point: The Skagit River has been and is multi-functional.

As a youth it is recalled stern-wheelers plied the river, and the mouth was dredged by the W.T. Preston to accommodate the stern-wheelers, tug boats, etc. Further, the "snag-boat", removed snags in the river to accommodate the steer-wheelers, sport fishery, etc..

Sometime after World War II, the freeway/trucks replaced the stern-wheelers, and Mount Vernon turned its back on the river; i.e. it eliminated all downtown dockages, and installed a revetment; which is now becoming a floodwall. Further, the W.T. Preston discontinued dredging the mouth of the Skagit River, removing snags. Furthermore, a jetty was installed on the south end of Swinomish Channel, and certain distributary sloughs were constricted. Point: The mouth of the Skagit River is not as Mother Nature designed/evolved it, and the mouth has been constricted: Therefore, more water backs up to be protected against.

The human body has a circulatory system, and with time our arteries/veins "plaque". With plaque, humans get hypertension, and if not treated/abated, heart attacks occur, with most survivors having stints installed. And, if plaque constrictions are not treated/abated, aneurysms eventuate.

This left-handed octogenarian sees an analogy, with current government inclined to ignore the downstream constrictions, *which creates back-up pressure on dikes*; requiring higher and thicker dikes.

We know the earth is not geomorphologically static, and a river is a drainage system of/for regional rainfall. We also know man must work with nature, and that nature controls man; *not vice-versa*.

Summation: Building higher wider dikes eventuates in backing-up river water, which potentially relocates the location of a *hydrologic aneurysm*; i.e. it does not preclude a potential 100-year flood.


Roger E. Pederson

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