

Seattle - September 7, 1965

File: 8741-3-31 (SF)

Mr. G. V. Guerin - S T . P A U L  
Mr. C. M. Rasmussen - S E A T T L E

On November 12, 1963 I gave you copy of my letter to Mr. Shober asking that he have Mr. Abbey attend a public hearing by the Corps of Engineers on a flood control plan for the Skagit River Basin, Washington. That particular hearing was postponed because of the assassination of President Kennedy but was held on January 10, 1964 without the usual publicity so that we had no one in attendance.

On June 30, 1965 the Corps made notice of their report, copy attached, on the project, and I have a copy of the report, which is quite voluminous. The basic features are as follows:

Flood waters of the Skagit River are to be contained within existing levees that are to be improved and raised along the river as shown on attached print dated September 3, 1965. (The information taken from the report.) The Avon By-Pass, authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1936, is also included, and the general plan is shown on the print but the details have not been released to the public.

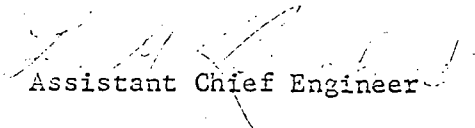
On the levee work there are two areas that may have minor effect on our property. These are, each side of our track at Bridge 30 and in the vicinity of Bridges 28 and 28.2, Milltown, where the levees will be slightly raised, but no adverse effect on our property and very little work on our right of way.

The Avon By-Pass is estimated to cost \$23,940,000, of which \$4,150,000 is local cost. Details are lacking on the two railroad bridges, but the channel bottom is planned 360 feet wide. Report shows Main Line bridge to cost \$866,000 and the Anacortes Line bridge, \$713,000. These are federal costs and will be increased 25% for contingencies, plus engineering and design, supervision and administration. Water traffic in the by-pass will be limited to small boats, and even those will be restricted by the two intermediate weirs, the purpose of which is to control ground water to existing levels.

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C. M. Rasmussen - 2

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When additional funds are received, the Corps of Engineers will establish final alignment on the Avon By-Pass; and when this is done, they will complete the details, planning, etc., for the bridges.

  
Assistant Chief Engineer

Attach. (3&1)

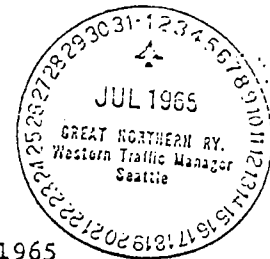
cc w/attach: Mr. R. W. West (3)  
Mr. R. P. Tjossem (1)  
Mr. R. H. Shober (2)  
Mr. R. W. Gustafson (1)  
Mr. R. M. Boyd (1)

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U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DIVISION, NORTH PACIFIC  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
210 Custom House  
Portland, Oregon 97209



30 June 1965

NOTICE OF REPORT ON SKAGIT RIVER BASIN, WASHINGTON,  
FOR FLOOD CONTROL AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the report on Skagit River Basin, Washington, concerning flood control and allied improvements authorized by resolution of the Committee on Public Works of the United States Senate adopted 4 January 1960 and by resolution of the Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives of the United States adopted 9 June 1960 and concerning which public hearings were held on 8 February 1961 and 10 January 1964 in Mount Vernon, Washington, has been completed by the District and Division Engineers. The recommended plan of improvement consists of a levee and channel improvement project for protection of the Skagit River Valley downstream from Sedro Woolley, Washington, and modification of the presently authorized Avon Bypass project to permit Federal participation in the construction of recreation facilities. The estimated first cost of the construction for which an appropriation of funds would be required from Congress is \$5,770,000 and \$34,500 for the levee and channel improvement and the recreation facilities respectively.

Because of the local benefits to be realized from the recommended improvements, local interests would be required to:

- a. Provide without cost to the United States, all lands, easements, and rights-of-way necessary for construction of the projects;
- b. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the construction works;
- c. Maintain and operate all the works after completion in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Army;
- d. Provide without cost to the United States all relocations of buildings and utilities, roads, sewers, related and special facilities necessary for construction of the projects;
- e. Provide assurances that encroachment on improved channels will not be permitted;
- f. Notify the public annually of the limited flood protection provided by the recommended works subsequent to their construction;

g. Secure the water rights necessary for operation of the recommended works for recreational purposes;

h. With respect to recreational facilities, provide cash, equivalent work, or lands so that the non-Federal share shall be at least 50 per cent of the total first cost of the development;

i. Assure public access for all on equal terms, for recreation development;

j. Submit plans for any additional recreational development of the Avon Bypass project to the Secretary of the Army for approval and determination of the Federal interest prior to construction.

In accordance with law, the report is being referred for review to the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors in Washington, D. C. Interested parties may present written views on the report to the Board. Statements submitted should not repeat material previously presented at public hearings held by District or Division Engineers, or contained in their reports, as this information is already available to the Board. Information submitted should be new, specific in nature and bear directly on the findings in the report.

Further hearings will be held only on written request explaining the need to present material not included in the report.

Written communications are to be mailed to the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, Washington, D. C. 20315, in time to reach the Board by 30 July 1965. If extension of this date is considered necessary, requests giving reasons and additional time desired should be submitted as soon as possible.


The Board considers communications and the report at a date subsequent to expiration of notice. Information furnished by mail receives the same attention as that received at the public hearing. Should the Board not be convinced of the soundness of the recommendations in the report, notice to that effect will be mailed to all known interested parties prior to final action.

Further information may be obtained from this office or the District Engineer, U. S. Army Engineer District, Seattle, 1519 Alaska Way, South, Seattle, Washington 98134. Interested parties, including the press, may make such notes of the contents of the report as they desire. However, copies of the report will not be loaned for use.

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outside of the office, but interested parties may purchase copies of the report, or parts thereof, including illustrations, at the cost of reproduction from the Seattle District Engineer. The price of a single copy of the report is \$4.50. Checks or money orders should be made payable to the Treasurer of the United States.

You are requested to give the foregoing information to any persons known by you to be interested in the report, and who, not being known by the Division Engineer, do not receive a copy of this public notice.

  
P. C. HYZER  
Brigadier General, USA  
Division Engineer