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16 Jan 47

800.2251(Seattle Power Proj-Skagit  
River)29 HPSGC

16 January 1947

**SUBJECT:** Skagit County Planning Commission Meeting on Flood Storage,  
Roes Dam, Skagit River, Washington

**TO:** Division Engineer  
North Pacific Division  
Corps of Engineers  
500 Pittock Block  
Portland 5, Oregon.

1. A meeting of the Water Resources Committee, Skagit County Planning Commission, was held on 13 January 1947. At the request of the committee, the meeting was attended by representatives of Seattle City Light and Puget Sound Power and Light Company; the Chief River Forecaster, Seattle District, U. S. Weather Bureau; the District Engineer, U.S. Geological Survey; and a representative of the District Engineer.

2. Following a discussion of the flood warning system recently inaugurated by the U.S. Weather Bureau, the committee took up the matter of proposed flood storage in Seattle City Light's Roes Reservoir. A communication from Congressman Henry M. Jackson was read by the chairman, which communication included an apparently verbatim quotation of the third and fourth paragraphs of the letter dated 29 November 1946 from Office, Chief of Engineers to the Federal Power Commission. Several members of the committee objected to the proposed flood control reservation of 200,000 acre-feet from 1 November to 1 April on the grounds that, although the amount of storage was adequate, the period suggested did not include the usual early fall high water in October, nor the snow melt high water of April. In historic times neither of these high waters has exceeded bank-full stage of Skagit River, and anticipated reservoir operations are such that flood storage reservation in the months of October and April would reduce the prime power output of the plant. Nevertheless, the representative of Seattle City Light stated that the City would have no objections to reserving 200,000 acre-feet of flood storage from 1 October to 1 May of each year.

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yes.*

**HPSOC - Skagit County Planning Commission Meeting on Flood Storage,  
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3. No further action was taken by the committee, but it is believed that the committee will recommend to the Planning Council that the Federal Power Commission be requested to require flood storage reservation from 1 October to 1 May, and possibly to 1 June.

4. In view of the letter from the Chief of Engineers to Congressman Jackson, which assured him that recommendations of the Corps of Engineers to the Federal Power Commission would provide substantial flood control benefits from the operation of Ross Dam, but which contained none of the figures which were quoted at the meeting, it is believed that the Office, Chief of Engineers may have some interest in this report.



**L. H. HEWITT  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer**

3/12  
Hopkins

Buswell MB

Peas

Shuter

Hewitt /s/

H & R