

THE CONCRETE HERALD

Formerly the Hamilton Herald Established Nov. 23, 1901. Oldest Paper in the Upper Skagit.

December 31, 1953

NEW BAKER DAM ASKED

A new hydro-electric dam on the Baker River, a project which has been considered by Puget Sound Power & Light Co. for the past twenty-five years, seems about to become a reality! Last week the power company announced that engineers are now preparing the information to apply to the Federal Power Commission for a preliminary permit to develop the project.

The Upper Baker site has been owned by Puget for many years, ever since the building of the present dam here, and would make possible a generating plant and a storage reservoir about the same size as the existing plant here — capacity of about 40,000 kilowatts.

The new project would have the additional merits of being close to load centers in Skagit and Whatcom counties and would provide better stream control of the Baker River. The latter would enable the company to enlarge facilities at the local power station by 50,000 kilowatts.

The new dam site is about seven miles north of Concrete in what is known as Eaglekraut Canyon, just above the tip of the present Lake Shannon.

The Baker project will cost an estimated \$12 million dollars. No definite announcement will be made as to when the dam will be started as it is just one of a series of steps in a long-range program now being outlined by the company. Permission from the power commission to build the dam will be the news to be watched for. With this, the actual construction plans should not be long in getting under way.

Building of the proposed dam will mean another boom for the town of Concrete, similar to that 1924-26 when the Baker dam contract brought hundreds of workers here for nineteen months of prosperous activity.