

THE CONCRETE HERALD

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PERMIT ON BAKER DAM

Big news for the Concrete area was in newspaper headlines this week with the announcement that the Federal Power Commission has granted the Puget Sound Power & Light Co. a three-year preliminary permit for its proposed hydroelectric project on the Baker River.

The proposed project will include a dam on the Baker River above present Lake Shannon. This will be planned for a capacity of about 60,000 kilowatts. In addition the capacity of the present power house at Concrete would be increased to handle the extra storage of water that will be made possible.

Work has been under way on a small scale at the dam site this summer, but can now be expanded to full scale operation.

Details Not Yet Available

A call yesterday to Frank McLaughlin, president of the company revealed that the power company has not received the full text of the permit, so that they do not know the exact limits of the permission granted.

However, Mr. McLaughlin stated that they were very gratified with the granting of the permit and felt that it was the first step toward ultimate complete development of the Baker River as a power source.

He said that the company would use the permit for an exhaustive study of the feasibility and practicability of the development, and if the findings proved out present beliefs there would be no hesitation in launching into construction.

Mr. McLaughlin estimated that the completed work, now under consideration, would run close to \$30,000,000 in cost.

Full details are promised as soon as company officials have had an opportunity to study the temporary permit and make the necessary decisions as to procedure.

Will Mean Boom Here

Building of the huge project will mean a boom period for this area, as great or greater than the period when the present Baker dam was built back in 1924-26. Besides the large crew that will be necessary to erect the dam and power house, there will also be a huge area of timbered land in the eventual storage area of the dam to be logged.

The dam will make many changes in the upper Baker district, including raising the level of Baker Lake. The new lake is expected to open new recreational possibilities for fishermen and tourists, all of which will effect the economy of the Concrete community beneficially.

A final permanent gain will be made in the additional employment that will be required in maintenance and operation of increased hydro-electric facilities here.

As heretofore stated, the permit is "temporary" and the work done by the company will be in hopes of proving out all points in favor of a completed project, but the outlook is entirely optimistic from all standpoints. The power is needed, the planning is sound. No adverse findings are anticipated.