

THE CONCRETE HERALD

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Ask Dam Permit

OCTOBER 20, 1955.

Application to the Federal Power Commission for a license to build an 85,000-kilowatt hydroelectric plant on the Upper Baker River here at an estimated cost of more than \$27 million was announced this week by Puget Sound Power & Light Co. The application was preceded by last week's announcement by Skagit County P. U. D. that they had withdrawn their pending condemnation suit against the private company so that it could proceed with its plans.

The proposed dam, some 300 feet high, will be located about eight miles above the company's present Baker River project here at Concrete and will impound about 238 thousand acre feet of water in a reservoir nine miles long. The reservoir will raise the level of Baker lake 40 to 60 feet and will provide a huge storage of water for the Baker river flow.

As part of the new project the local power station will be enlarged by adding another 55,000 kilowatts of capacity with another generator. The two projects will produce a total of 140,000 kilowatts of new power at an estimated cost of \$35 million.

When the FPC has issued the license, construction on the Upper Baker project will start as soon as weather permits next spring. The entire development is scheduled for completion by 1959.

Most Obstacles Eliminated

One of the big obstacles in the hopes for early completion of the dam was removed when a joint study of migratory fish problems resulted in a meeting of the minds between fisheries authorities and the power engineers. Studies at the Baker dam over the past several years have resulted in working out a number of new ideas that have eliminated most of the objections of the fisheries people to another dam on the Baker river, which is a centuries-old spawning area.

The other obstacle was a condemnation suit pending for several years against the power company's holdings in Skagit county. This condemnation suit by the Skagit P. U. D., was dropped last week by the P. U. D. commissioners to clear the way for filing of the final application for permission to build.

For the past year the company has been doing preliminary work under a temporary permit. In most cases the final permit is a mere routine unless something is found definitely wrong with the site and its feasibility following granting of the temporary permit.