

Baker River Dam Planned At Concrete

A dam on the Baker river north of Concrete is one of several major power projects now under consideration in the Puget Sound-Cascade region, which would more than double the present power supply during the next eight years.

The report of possible dam construction on the Baker river was contained in a survey presented to the Puget Sound Utilities Council by Jack D. Stevens, consulting engineer, and made public yesterday. The ambitious undertaking, which lists several sites for power developments in the Northwest, including steam plants as well as dams, would cost in the neighborhood of 670 million dollars. This figure also includes costs of new transmission and distribution facilities.

The project on the Baker river, which is currently being investigated by the Puget Sound Power and Light company, would add 140,000 kilowatts of new capacity. Surveys for the dam, which would be located just inside the Whatcom county line, already have been made to a great extent.

Besides Baker river, other projects under investigation by the Puget Sound Utilities Council are at Boundary on the Pend Orielle river, the Sultan river, Wenatchee river, Rocky Beach on the Columbia, Cowlitz river and Mica Creek in British Columbia.

The Stevens report declares that the power development program, based on nominal load growth between now and 1963, would make the Puget Sound-Cascade region the "low-cost power center of the nation."