

COPY

THE CITY OF SEATTLE  
DEPARTMENT OF LIGHTING  
E. R. HOFFMAN  
SUPERINTENDENT  
MEMBER, BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
SEATTLE 4, WASHINGTON

December 27, 1948

AIRMAIL

Federal Power Commission  
Washington 25, D. C.

Amendment of License - Project  
No. 553 - Third Step of Ross Dam

Gentlemen:

Please refer to our letter of January 21, 1948, returning copies of Amendment No. 4 of the license for Project No. 553, which was in accordance with the request contained in the Commission's letter of January 15, 1948. This was for the purpose of allowing the City to study the effects of the flood control provisions contained in the proposed Article 36 of the license as set forth in Amendment No. 4.

The flood control operation, specified in Article 36, of the reservoir created by Ross Dam after completion of the third step and installation of the spillway gates, provides that the water level in the reservoir be drawn down to elevation 1582.5' by November 1 of each year, in order that there shall be 200,000 acre-feet of storage space available for flood retention during the period from November 1 to April 1 of each seasonal year.

Up until the completion of the clearing and removal of timber scheduled for 1951-1952, the amount of reservoir space that will be available for flood control will be considerably in excess of the 200,000 acre-feet specified in the flood control clause. It is planned to install the spillway gates on the dam sometime during the construction of the Ross Power Plant so that the full head can be utilized by the generators when they are ready for operation. We expect now to have the first unit of the power plant ready for operation by the end of 1952.

The design of the Ross Power Plant is now being developed by our consulting engineers, Mr. John L. Savage and Associates. Until the design of this plant is thoroughly investigated, certain characteristics of the plant which are required in the study of the effects of flood control operation of the reservoir will not be available.

P 000625

December 27, 1948

Because of the many problems connected with the operation of Ross Reservoir, such as insufficient data on flood routing on the Skagit River, the position that the Skagit Project bears to regional power development rather than an isolated project, the fact that it was not the intent of the Commission to request flood regulation until after the spillway gates are installed, and that the installation of the spillway gates is not contemplated until the power plant is constructed, it is respectfully requested that the Commission omit Article 36 from the license for the Third Step of Ross Dam.

In lieu thereof, it is requested that provisions for flood control operation of the project which the Commission may deem necessary be made the subject of a separate amendment of license just prior to the time that such operations will be made possible by the installation of the spillway gates on Ross Dam. This will allow both the City and the Commission more adequate time to study and formulate a plan of flood control operation that will allow the fullest practicable use of the water resources available in the Skagit River for the production of power by this project.

Yours very truly,

E. R. Hoffman

Superintendent of Lighting

ECB:cri

P 000626