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600.5(Skagit Riv & Tribs)

28 JAN 1950 26 January 1950

600.5 (Skagit Riv & Tribs) (1) NPSGP

Mr. E. R. Hoffman, Superintendent
Department of Lighting
Third Avenue and Madison Street
Seattle 4, Washington

Dear Sir:

As you may know this office is preparing a report on the Skagit River, authorized by Congress, to determine the best plan for comprehensive development of the basin with respect to water uses and with particular emphasis being placed on flood control. In any plan for flood control, some amount of storage reservation in Ross Reservoir would be an important component. The value of flood storage at Ross was recently demonstrated during the November 1949 flood when river stages at Mount Vernon were reduced by an estimated three feet through the fortunate availability of sufficient storage above Ross Dam.

The question of flood control storage in Ross Reservoir has been the subject in the past of correspondence between this office and the Federal Power Commission. From time to time informal verbal discussion between representatives of our offices have been held. We are now at the stage where we want to reach a definite conclusion in the studies for determining the amount of flood control storage required and the operational plan for its use. In arriving at a solution I want to mutually consider the various aspects of the problem with your department so as to obtain an equitable plan. Among other factors, the amount of flood control storage is dependent upon its effect on power production and also on the maximum allowable river discharge below Ross Dam. Information on these points can probably best be given by your department. In order to assemble factual data and to formulate opinions on the Ross flood control storage plan to be recommended to the Federal Power Commission I would like to suggest a conference between you or your representative and members of my staff.

The flood storage plan discussed in the previous paragraph could not become effective until the spillway crest gates have been installed, which I understand may not be until sometime in 1952. For the interim period until then I am also interested in the possibility of some

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temporary storage plan which might at least give a measure of protection to the valley areas. The technical feasibility of such a plan is not known to us and I would appreciate your consideration of the possibilities of the idea for discussion at the suggested conference.

The place and time for the meeting will be left to your convenience. I feel that full discussion of the flood storage problem between our organizations will lead to the best solution for all concerned.

Very truly yours,

B. C. ITSCHNER
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

cc: Clark, Rpts S.

~~Clark~~ ^{SPC}

~~Hopkins~~
~~18. NB~~
~~Budwell~~

~~Little~~

~~Brown~~ ^B

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