

OFFICE OF
SKAGIT COUNTY ENGINEER

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COUNTY ENGINEER

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JACK C. RAFTER, P.E.
ASSISTANT COUNTY ENGINEER

November 22, 1978

Board of Skagit County Commissioners
Skagit County Administration Building
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Re: Baker Lake Reservoir - Flood
Control

Gentlemen:

As you are aware, the Baker Lake Reservoirs are considered to be a significant portion of Skagit River Basin control capabilities. In order to provide flood control for the Baker River tributary, an Agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Puget Power and Light was negotiated to allow an additional 74,000 acre feet of storage capacity in the upper and lower reservoirs by drawing down to this capability between November 1 and April 1. The ideal draw-down for the upper Baker is 58,000 acre feet with the lower reservoir drawn-down to 16,000 acre feet capacity.

It has been of concern to Skagit County that an Agreement has not been reached between the Corps and Puget Power for this season and that the draw-down to the 74,000 acre feet storage capability has not been accomplished as yet. Negotiations are faltering over the method of reimbursement to Puget Power for power loss due to this agreed draw-down. Puget Power is indicating to the Corps that they want reimbursement in power, rather than in financial remuneration. This in turn involves Bonneville Power Administration in a very complicated 3-party negotiation process.

As of November 21, 1978, the elevation of the upper Baker Lake was 716.48 feet, allowing an additional storage capability of 36,100 acre feet while the elevation of the lower Baker reservoir is 424.26 feet with a storage capability of 28,600 acre feet. Although the lower Baker reservoir has substantially more storage capability than the ideal 16,000 acre feet, the over-all storage capacity is approximately 10,000 acre feet less than that felt necessary for adequate flood protection on the Baker River.

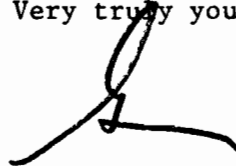
Since General Wells and Colonel Poteat will both be in Skagit County today to review the Lower Levee Project and the Baker Lake Reservoirs it would be well to address them to our concerns relative to this situation. I feel that Skagit

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County is being held in a vulnerable position due to the lack of an agreement between the Corps and Puget Power. We are well into the flood season and the timing on this resolution is critical.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter or if you would like to discuss this prior to our meeting with the Corps this noon, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Eugene Sampley', written over the typed name below.

W. EUGENE SAMPLEY, P. E.
Skagit County Engineer

WES/mb

cc: Mr. Donald E. Nelson

LARRY MERKLE Corp

BAKER LAKE

11/21/78	716.48	UPPER (36,100) ^{AF.}
"	424.26	LOWER (28,600)

74,000 TOTAL IDEAL

58,000 UPPER "

NORMAN MCDONALD
CORP NEGOTIATOR

Nov. 28, 1978

64 3450 W

Baker River Hold down

Called ——— Vern Cook —

DUI, 00ff

Gen Wells. Portland off

Working on agreement with
Bonniwell Power Adm. & Puget Power

No draw down

Verbal agreement

Looking for written

in the next week or two.



La.