

LEMKE/k1/671  
7 Jun 68

NPSN-FPM (29 May 68) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Flood Hazard at Mount Vernon, Washington

DA, Seattle District, Corps of Engineers, 1519 Alaskan Way South,  
Seattle, Washington 98134 10 JUN 1968

THRU: Division Engineer, North Pacific, ATTN: NPDPL-FP

TO: Chief of Engineers, ATTN: ENGCW-AD

Inclosed is a draft of a reply to Senator Magnuson's inquiry regarding flood hazards at Mount Vernon, Washington, as requested by the basic letter. A copy of a direct reply to Senator Henry M. Jackson dated 22 May 1968 regarding a similar inquiry on this subject was furnished your office.

LEMKE

GULLIDGE

STEINBORN

EXEC OFC /s/

MAIL ROOM

FPMS FILE  
(Bldg T-1)

H. E. MC CONNELL  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

3 Incl  
Added 1 incl (trip)  
3. Draft w/incl

cc: Ch, Planning Br w/incl

*Hogarty*  
*Shoemaker*  
*PH BR File*  
*AWOS*  
*Matta - File*  
*Bldg T-2*  
*PAS*



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315

S- 19 June 68

IN REPLY REFER TO

ENG CW-PF

29 May 1968

SUBJECT: Flood Hazard at Mount Vernon, Washington.

TO: District Engineer  
Seattle District

The attached correspondence is referred for:

XX Information as basis for further reply, to reach CofEngrs,  
ATTN: ENG CW-AD not later than 19 June 68 thru NPD.

XX Draft of reply.

\_\_\_ Direct reply, information copy to OCE. Correspondent  
has has not been informed of reference.

\_\_\_ Appropriate action.

\_\_\_ Information, copy of OCE reply.

\_\_\_ Your information.

XX Copy furnished Division Engineer, North Pacific Division.

FOR THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS:

LEWIS A. PICK, JR.  
LTC, Corps of Engineers  
Assistant Director of Civil Works  
for Pacific Divisions

- 2 Incl
- 1 Ltr fm Sen Magnuson  
dtd 21 May 68 w/attach
- 2 Cy ltr to Sen Magnuson  
fm OCE dtd 29 May 68  
(dup)

ENG FL 17, 1 Mar 68

P 001028

United States Senate

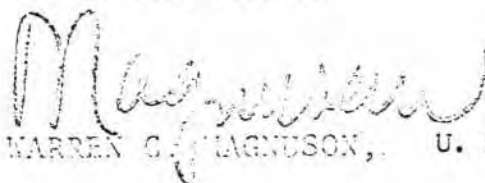
May 21, 1968

Respectfully referred to

..... U.S. Army Engineers .....

for such consideration as the communication  
herewith submitted may warrant, and for a report  
thereon, in duplicate to accompany return of  
inclosure.

By direction of



WARREN C. MAGNUSON, U. S. S.

670 1131074

WGM:Butz

*Dist 1*

ENGGW-IT

29 May 1968

Honorable Warren G. Magnuson  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Magnuson:

I have your letter dated 21 May 1968, inclosing a letter from Mr. Charles L. Easton, Mount Vernon, Washington, concerning flood hazards at Mount Vernon, Washington.

The District Engineer, Seattle District, is being requested to furnish information on this matter. Upon receipt of his report, I will communicate with you further.

Sincerely yours,

LEWIS A. PECK, JR.  
LTC, Corps of Engineers  
Assistant Director of Civil Works  
for Pacific Divisions

P 001031

D R A F T

Honorable Warren G. Magnuson  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Magnuson:

This is in further reply to your recent inquiry pertaining to flood hazards in connection with the proposed expansion of the present library in Mount Vernon, Washington, with which you inclosed a letter dated 14 May 1968 from Charles L. Easton, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mount Vernon Public Library.

Financial assistance for the proposed library expansion includes a Federal grant to be administered by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Executive Order 11296 of 10 August 1966 requires the heads of executive agencies to prevent uneconomic development of the Nation's flood plains, particularly in connection with Federal lands and installations and Federally financed or supported improvements. A copy of Executive Order 11296 is inclosed and please note that section 4 states that requests for funds transmitted to the Bureau of the Budget by an executive agency are to be accompanied by a statement on the findings of the agency's evaluation and consideration of flood hazards in the development of such

P 001032

requests. The Secretary of Army has the additional responsibility under this order to furnish, upon request, flood hazard information to the heads of executive agencies or their representatives.

The Corps of Engineers, Seattle District furnished flood hazard information pertaining to the Mount Vernon library upon the specific request of Mr. Roman Mostar, State Library Building Consultant, and Henry Klein and Associates, architects, of Mount Vernon, Washington. The following is a summary of flood hazard information furnished for the Mount Vernon library:

a. The library is located in the city of Mount Vernon at the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and Snoqualmie Street about 1½ city blocks landward of the left bank levee of the Skagit River.

b. The architect has given the proposed finished floor elevation of the library as 22.18 feet above mean sea level. The elevation of the protecting levee in this area varies between elevations 28 and 30 feet above mean sea level.

c. This levee is estimated to provide flood protection with adequate freeboard for a flood having a recurrence interval of once in 8 years. With a combination of flood fighting efforts and the use of minimum freeboard the probability exists that protection could be provided for a flood having a recurrence interval of once in 15 years.

d. The above information indicates the library is in a vulnerable flood hazard location. Under direction of the Bureau of the Budget flood hazard elevation guidelines for Federal executive agencies have been suggested for adoption. These suggested guidelines read in part as follows:

"Federal or Federally-assisted construction of buildings should typically be considered inappropriate unless compliance with the following objectives will be obtained;

"a. The finished floor elevations of buildings subject to damage by water, or buildings whose contents may be subject to damage by water, should be at or above the elevation of floods having a probability of one per cent. Lower floor elevations may be permitted where effective flood proofing is included in the design of such buildings."

The flood hazards as described are based on existing conditions in the valley. Consideration of future conditions would include the flood control project authorized by the 1966 Flood Control Act, 89th Congress, 2d Session, consisting of a levee and channel improvement project that would raise the level of protection for all areas downstream of Burlington to 8-year frequency flood level. In addition to the levee improvement project, the Avon Bypass project authorized in

1936 has been reactivated. This project in conjunction with levee and channel improvements noted above, would raise the level of flood protection in the lower valley to a frequency of once in 35 years. The above projects are authorized but not funded. Local interests are giving serious consideration to both projects, but sponsorship, funding, and construction requirements indicate the most optimistic completion date for these projects is several years in the future. Long-range plans to develop a high level of flood protection for the Skagit Valley which would exceed a frequency of once in 100 years (the 1 percent probability flood), would probably require the construction of new upstream storage and full utilization of existing storage in addition to the recommended levee and channel improvements and the Avon Bypass project.

In a letter dated 15 March 1968 to Mr. Roman Mostar, State Library Building Consultant, we described the flood hazard conditions, defined the elevation of the 1 percent probability flood, and suggested possible solutions to the flood hazard problem as follows:

"a. Relocate the building to clear the flood hazard area. Since the proposed construction is to be an extension or addition to the existing library this alternate may not be practicable.



"b. Flood proofing of the new addition and possibly the existing building to elevation 29.0 feet above mean sea level, if an addition to the existing building is adhered to. Approval to flood proof the structure should be obtained from the funding agency."

No specific request was received from Miss Maryan E. Reynolds, Washington State Librarian, for a variance as indicated in Mr. Easton's letter. The Corps of Engineers does not have jurisdiction to grant a variance. The granting of variances would be the responsibility of the funding agency.

In April 1967, the Corps of Engineers, Seattle District prepared for the Washington State Department of Conservation (now Department of Water Resources) a Flood Plain Information Report on the Skagit River Basin. This report defines in detail the flood hazards in the river basin including the library site in Mount Vernon. The information in this report is based on factual stream records and develops detailed information on flood flows and flood heights. The Department of Water Resources, State of Washington; the Skagit County Water Resources Advisory Committee and the Corps of Engineers, Seattle District have rendered assistance to the Skagit County Planning Department in the drafting of meaningful flood plain regulations for the Skagit Valley.

The adoption of carefully prepared regulations will provide the residents of the valley with the necessary guidelines for future developments in the valley flood plains.

Representatives of my office will be pleased to be of further assistance if you so desire.

Sincerely yours,

1 Incl  
Executive Order 11296