

11 JUL 1977

Robert E. Schofield, Executive Director
Skagit Regional Planning Council
120 West Kincaid, Annex II
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Dear Mr. Schofield:

The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is beginning a review to determine if the Avon Bypass Project, Skagit River Basin, Washington, should be recommended for deauthorization. Our review is being initiated in accordance with the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, approved 7 March 1974 (Public Law 93-251, Section 12), which requires the Corps of Engineers to provide Congress annually with information on unconstructed projects, or portions of projects, not funded for the past 8 years and no longer considered appropriate for continued authorization. As an important consideration of the Avon Bypass Project review, we request that you and other interested parties examine the inclosed project-related material and provide us with comments.

Inclosure 1 is a draft public notice we propose to issue to solicit public comments, inclosure 2 is a project information sheet, and inclosure 3 is a map of the project area. Following your review, we will issue the public notice and project information material to the general public for review and comment. Dependent upon public response, a public meeting may be held to discuss deauthorization of the Avon Bypass.

To further facilitate your review, paragraphs below briefly describe the status of related Corps of Engineers' flood control studies in the Skagit River Basin.

a. Additional Flood Control at Upper Baker Project. The Upper Baker Project recently received congressional approval. The operation of the Upper Baker Dam will be modified for flood control purposes by providing up to 58,000 additional acre-feet of flood control storage

8 July 1977

NPSEN-PL-RP

Robert E. Schofield, Executive Director

by increasing reservoir drawdown in the period 1 November to 15 November of each year. Implementation of the project will not require structural modifications to existing facilities. Coupled with flood plain management, the project will increase flood protection in the Skagit River flood plain below Concrete, Washington, by decreasing peak discharges from those now experienced. Flood frequencies in areas protected by low levees will remain unchanged, although for major floods the extent of flooding will be less.

b. Levee and Channel Improvements. The Seattle District, Corps of Engineers, currently is performing advanced engineering and design studies of the Skagit River - Levee and Channel Improvements Project. Authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1966, approved 7 November 1966 (Public Law 89-789), the project involves raising and strengthening existing levees downstream from Burlington and Mount Vernon, Washington, and making minor channel improvements to increase minimum channel capacities. In conjunction with the Upper Baker Project, the levee and channel improvements project, if constructed as authorized, would increase the minimum level of flood protection in areas downstream from Burlington, Washington, from 3 years to an average recurrence interval of 11 years, with 3-foot freeboard. During our studies, consideration will be given to providing higher levels of protection for the urban areas of Mount Vernon and Burlington.

Together with the projects mentioned above, the Avon Bypass Project would increase minimum flood protection from 11 to 59 years for the area downstream from Burlington.

We would appreciate your comments on the proposed deauthorization of the Avon Bypass Project before we issue the public notice. Your comments are requested by 25 July 1977 so that the public notice can be issued in August 1977.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jim Newman, Study Manager, telephone (206) 764-3620. Similar letters are being sent to those persons listed on inclosure 4.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN A. POTRAT
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

4 Incl
As stated

cc w/incl:
Newman
✓ Brooks
Dice

FB
BROOKS

SKRINDE

HOGAN

SELBY KOLD

LTC [Signature] SINA

17 Aug 1977
ED-PL FILE