



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX C-3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124

NPSEN-DB

21 NOV 1978

SUBJECT: Skagit Levee and Channel Improvement Project

Division Engineer, North Pacific
ATTN: NPDEN-TE

1. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the course of action we are following in the advance engineering and design of the Skagit Levee and Channel Improvement Project in order to maintain the scheduled construction start in Fiscal Year 1980.
2. The primary needs of the area are urban flood protection for Burlington and Mount Vernon, and rural flood protection for the agricultural areas. We have essentially completed our analysis of the delta flooding problem downstream of Sedro Woolley and developed a feasible plan to provide flood damage reduction for the entire contiguous hydrologic area. The most desirable plan is to increase the level of protection for agricultural areas downstream of Mount Vernon to approximately 50-year protection and provide 100-year or more protection to the urban areas of Burlington and Mount Vernon.
3. This would involve a change in project scope from the plan authorized by Congress in 1966. The change in scope involves an increase in area protected by approximately 3,800 acres or about 10 percent of the 38,000 acres protected by the 1966 authorized plan. Based upon criteria in draft ER 1105-2-31 titled "Planning, Changes to Authorized Projects," this increase would involve a Post Authorization Change (PAC) rather than the Significant Post Authorization Change (S-PAC) mentioned in paragraph 6 of our NPSEN-DB 1st Indorsement dated 29 December 1977 to basic NPDPB letter dated 1 December 1977, subject: OCE Response to Reclassification of Avon Bypass Project.
4. The draft ER lists four criteria for determining whether a change to an authorized project is classified as a S-PAC: (1) change in scope of 50 percent or more, (2) addition or deletion of a project purpose, (3) change in local cooperation requirements, or (4) exceedence of \$15 million Federal cost if the project was authorized under Section 201, Public Law 89-298. In regards to the Skagit Project, the last three criteria do not apply because no changes in project purposes or local cooperation requirements are planned, and the project was not authorized under Section 201, Public Law 89-298. For scope changes the draft ER states that "A change of 50 percent or more in the scope

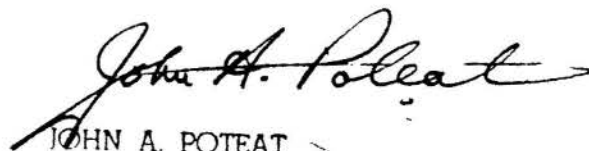
P004846

NPSEN-DB

SUBJECT: Skagit Levee and Channel Improvement Project

of a project, such as the . . . area protected by a project . . ." is the governing criteria. As discussed in paragraph 3, the most desirable plan would involve a change of only about 10 percent in area protected, well below the criteria of 50 percent. Therefore, the Skagit Project would not involve a S-PAC, but would require a PAC.

5. The 1978 Water Resources Development Act legislation, which the 95th Congress did not enact, contained a section that would have provided authority to " . . . construct such additional flood control measures as are needed to extend flood protection upstream to and including the community in Sedro Woolley . . ." We believe this legislation is still desirable and, if enacted during 1979, could eliminate the need for processing a PAC with the General Design Memorandum. However, we are proceeding on the basis that the legislation will not be enacted prior to the summer of 1979 and that a PAC will be necessary.


JOHN A. POTEAT
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer