

THE COURIER-TIMES

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STONE-WEBSTER WILL SPEND OVER \$2,000,000 NEAR HERE

Over a Million and a Quarter Will be Spent at Concrete and Almost Another Million Dollars on Transmission Lines; New Projects Announced Officially Big Crew Working Out of Sedro-Woolley

Insuring a large additional payroll for Sedro-Woolley, during the next few months, the Stone-Webster Co. announced today its plans for improvements in the Baker River power plant at Concrete, and the transmission lines through Sedro-Woolley, amounting to an expenditure of more than \$2,000,000. A big crew is now working out of Sedro-Woolley, as announced recently, and more men will be added next month.

Providing for expenditures in excess of five million dollars to meet construction and extension requirements during the year, Puget Sound Power & Light Company has just adopted its construction budget for 1928, according to an announcement made today by Mr. H. B. Sewall, manager of the district.

Included in the sum above mentioned is an item of \$1,267,000 covering the cost of a new unit at the Baker River power plant in Skagit county together with the necessary addition to the power house. During the year 1927 the height of the Baker River dam was increased about 33 feet enlarging the storage capacity at that point from 70,000 acre feet to 130,000 acre feet, while the generating capacity was increased at the same time from 40,215 horsepower to 53,620 horsepower. New construction during 1928 will bring the capacity of the Baker River plant from 53,620 horsepower to about 80,000 horsepower.

Another interesting development which it tied in with the Baker River program is the construction of a second 110,000-volt transmission line from that plant to the Beverly Park sub-station at Everett. This line will be approximately 62 miles in length and built by way of Sedro-Woolley and Arlington, will be of 4-0 copper wire and erected on "H" type towers. The new line will tap into the Sedro-Woolley

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substation, thus giving that station which supplies the city of Bellingham and other points to the northward, a relay line insurance of continuous power service.

From the Sedro-Woolley substation the line continues through the Clear Lake and Big Lake country to Arlington and thence to Beverly Park where it will tie into the 60,000-volt transmission system of the company. The cost of this line is estimated at about \$787,000.

Another significant item on the company budget is the sum of \$1,652,000 which has been set aside to meet line extensions for the service of new customers during the year. This, it is estimated very roughly, will provide for the construction of almost 1000 miles of new distribution line and the carrying of electric service to not less than 10,000 families which have not hitherto enjoyed the benefit of electricity in farm and home.

Appropriations have been made for increasing the capacity of existing substations and the construction of new ones at a cost of \$618,400, while improvements to transmission lines call for an expenditure of \$285,000. Improvements to steam and hydro-electric power plants are estimated at \$121,000 and miscellaneous expenditures of one sort and another at \$175,000.

Provision has also been made for the purchase of thirteen new deluxe stage coaches to be put into service during the year, the cost of these being estimated at \$154,000.

These expenditures, covering as they do, construction work only, do not take into account the company payroll and operating expenses amounting to about \$7,500,000 annually; \$1,000,000 paid in taxes and interest payments on almost \$15,000,000 worth of securities purchased by people resident within the territory served.