

COUNTY CHANGES PLANS ON RIVER CUTOFF PROJECT

Lowell Hughes, chairman of the board of county commissioners, today announced revision of engineering plans at Burlington Bend, switching back to the original bank revetment program.

The engineering group which included personnel from the county engineers' office, the state department of conservation and development and the soil conservation service had just completed plans for the dredging of a new channel across the peninsula created by the river at Burlington Bend.

"Plans were submitted last week to the army engineers for final approval," stated Mr. Hughes, "but requirements placed upon the job by Colonel Hewett's office makes it impossible for Skagit county to carry out the plan as originally proposed."

Demands Full Width

"The stipulation which has brought about the change in the Burlington Bend erosion control plan is the requirement by the federal government that Skagit county either dredge the entire channel which the river will require, that is a stream bed approximately 400 feet wide, or that funds be put in escrow by the county for the future dredging down stream of the material removed by the river in establishing its normal channel width."

Mr. Hughes pointed out that Skagit county is expending every effort to correct the present Burlington Bend, that funds are not sufficient to put money in escrow for such an unknown contingency, therefore, the commissioners had only one choice to make, that of spending what money was available in rock reveting the worst sections, of the curve.

Favors Revetment

After meeting with the army engineers the information was discussed with Art Garton, director of state department of conservation development. The plan of rock revetment was further discussed, and Mr. Garton was favorable to the plans as previously suggested.

Mr. Garton stated he would have E. Berg, hydraulics engineer, call and arrange for the project to proceed with rock revetment.