

Hearing Nov. 22 for Skagit uniform flood control plan

A plan for uniform flood control along the Skagit River south of Burlington will be the subject of a hearing Nov. 22 at the Elks Lodge in Mount Vernon.

At that time, the United States Army Corps of Engineers will present data on the plan and hear views on it from interested groups and persons.

Although the hearing will be partly concerned with a plan to modify structures in the proposed Avon Bypass to permit additional fisheries and recreational uses, it will not be directly concerned with the Bypass itself.

Spokesmen for the Corps of Engineers said the Avon Bypass is the subject of one of three separate studies now under way which are not of direct concern at the Nov. 22 hearing. The other two are a study of Skagit River navigation from Concrete to the mouth and a study of upstream storage along the Sauk River and other tributaries.

OTHER HEARINGS LATER

The corps indicated however that "if there are any outstanding comments" on the Avon Bypass, they will be

heard Nov. 22. Separate hearings will be held later on the other two studies, the Corps noted.

Of major concern at the Nov. 22 hearing will be plans to provide uniform levee protection along the Skagit from its mouth to Mount Vernon; strengthening of the levee system, and widening of the channel at some points to remove restrictions. Modification of the bypass structures also will be considered.

All the plans scheduled for discussion Nov. 22 are being considered for possible recommendation to Congress.

In its plans for uniform and stronger levees along the Skagit

it, the Corps of Engineers hopes to provide a system of levees which can withstand river flows up to 120,000 cubic feet per second by raising low points in existing dikes, by providing a minimum standard top width for dikes and by removing serious river channel restrictions.

PROTECTION VARIES

At present the Corps explained, existing levees downstream from Mount Vernon provide "widely varying degrees of flood protection" from 90,000 feet per second to 120,000 cubic feet per second.

Estimated total cost of the improvements would be \$6,500,000. Average annual cost of the

project would be \$225,000. The federal agency estimates total value of annual benefits derived from the increased flood protection at \$807,000.

In assessing flood damage at 1963 prices in the Skagit Valley, the Corps said: "... potential overall annual flood damages in the basin are estimated to exceed \$3,000,000 per year

"The federal government would construct the actual improvements. Local participation would be required for providing lands and rights of way, relocating utilities, maintenance of the project after completion and holding the federal government free from damages or

claims resulting from construction.

ESTIMATE COST

Cost of local participation is estimated at \$370,000, including rights of way, road relocations, utilities, buildings, and fences.

Revised plans for additional fisheries and recreational uses of the proposed Avon Bypass call for construction of an intermediate collapsible wier fish screens and boat ramps. Costs for such construction would be borne by the Corps of Engineers. Parking facilities, stocking of the Bypass with fish, operating costs for stocking and recreational uses, and obtaining water rights "would

have to be assumed by others," the Corps said.

In its report of plans for the Bypass, the federal agency lists some estimated figures for recreational uses of the project. The Fish and Wildlife Service, for instance, estimates usage at 159,000 sports fisherman days annually. The same agency predicts 6,760 hunter days of use in tracking down waterfowl. Stocking the Bypass area with pheasants might increase hunter usage by 2,500 days a year.

The possibility of establishing a park in a forested area near the Bypass midpoint is also noted by the Corps of Engineers. The agency says both the state Parks and Recreation

Commission and Skagit are studying possible implementation of a "recreational" there.

The Nov. 22 hearing at 1:30 p.m. The Corps urged that persons at the hearing offer factual material and supporting data.

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paint dealer here has woman customer who with her Siamese cat demanded paint the exact of blue of her pet's eyes. Other customers have with samples of fruit for matching colors.