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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

JERRY T. VERKLER, CHIEF CLERK

May 22, 1962

Mayor A. B. Curtis
Orofino, Idaho

Dear Bert:

It was thoughtful of you to send me a copy of a letter you received from Colonel James Beddow regarding details related to the construction of Bruces Eddy Dam.

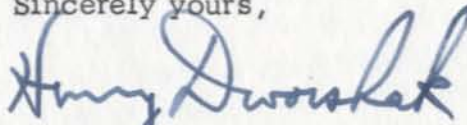
I regret that although I have been extremely active in getting the funds for pre-construction engineering for this project, I have not been much concerned about details which are largely supervised by the Army Corps of Engineers. I am sure that you are taking the proper steps to work out some of the problems in advance and avoid controversy which may impede progress when construction finally starts.

We will face some difficulty in getting authorization, and I have not been disturbed by the necessity of getting construction funds. If authorization comes late this session it may be impossible to get a Budget Bureau request for funds, but I have assurances from Chairman Ellender that enough construction funds will be made available for the preliminary work under the construction program. Usually such projects get off to a rather slow start, but funds are forthcoming to carry on as rapidly as work can be done efficiently.

The enclosed copy of testimony before our Appropriations Subcommittee on Public Works may be of interest to you. We need not be concerned about getting approval of this project in the Senate, but I am still in doubt about whether the wildlife groups will be able to prevent authorization on the House side. That is where the work must be done.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Henry Dworshak
U. S. Senator

TRANSCRIPT OF REMARKS BETWEEN SENATOR HENRY DWORSHAK AND
HERBERT G. WEST, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, INLAND EMPIRE
WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION; SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
WORKS OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
MAY 17, 1962

SENATOR DWORSHAK. I understand, Mr. West, that your statement includes an unqualified endorsement of the Bruces Eddy project on the North Fork of the Clearwater River.

MR. WEST. Yes.

SENATOR DWORSHAK. And I note also that you are asking for \$3,300,000 for beginning construction. Of course, our first roadblock is to secure the authorization.

MR. WEST. That is right.

SENATOR DWORSHAK. I think that in the up-dating of the 308 report the Army Engineers and the Budget Bureau have recommended authorization of this project.

MR. WEST. That is right. And that is in the process, Senator, it has been reported to the House. No hearing date has been set, but we are very hopeful of being able to include that 308 review report in the omnibus authorization bill. And of course I know that the Committee will not make an appropriation without the authorization, but we won't be here at that time, so you are right, we want to call that to the attention of the Committee.

SENATOR DWORSHAK. I understand that the Senate will not act on the omnibus bill until after the House completes action, which means that it may be very late in the Session before the omnibus bill clears Congress.

MR. WEST. That is right.

SENATOR DWORSHAK. And therefore it may be quite late to get a Budget request for construction funds, although in view of the fine support, bi-partisan support we have received from this committee and from the Northwest Delegations on Bruces Eddy over the past four years, and getting the reconstruction engineering work authorized, at the present time a total of \$2,600,000 has been appropriated and made available, which I understand will complete the surveying and the preconstruction work on this project. I think that that will run until the end of this fiscal year, with only about six weeks remaining, and the Army Engineers have testified that the project will be ready for construction.

MR. WEST. That is right, sir.

SENATOR MAGNUSON. I think we ought to add, Senator Dworshak, that if we do get the authorization in time, that we are all in general agreement that we ought to make the attempt to get this money.

SENATOR DWORSHAK. Yes, I have discussed this with Chairman Ellender of this Subcommittee, and as an ardent supporter over the years he is in accord with that proposal, I might say, to save a year by getting some construction funds in the Bill in this Session.

SENATOR MAGNUSON. Yes.

SENATOR DWORSHAK. I also wanted to make the observation that while in the past four or five years there has been considerable opposition to this project, especially by fish and wildlife groups, who felt that inadequate attention was being given to the fish and wildlife aspects of this project, that this opposition seems to have vanished largely because in the past few years we have been able to get, I think, about \$2 million to conduct fish and wildlife surveys in the middle Snake area, to ascertain the possible damages which might result from the building of this high dam on the North Fork of the Clearwater River.

And just last month we received in the Senate Appropriations Committee a report from the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service recommending the building of a fish hatchery near Kooskia, which would serve to replenish and propagate fish, particularly salmon and steelhead, in the reservoir, and in the various streams in that area.

MR. WEST. That is right, sir.

SENATOR DWORSHAK. I offered that amendment a year ago with instructions to the Fish and Wildlife Service to make the report in April, which was done. And under those circumstances, and the extensive surveys and studies which have been conducted for several years, I would say unequivocally that the Bruces Eddy project has received more extensive consideration so far