



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WALLA WALLA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BLDG. 602, CITY-COUNTY AIRPORT
WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON 99362

NPWEN-PL

17 February 1971

Honorable A. B. Curtis
Mayor of Orofino
Box 1238
Orofino, Idaho 83544

Best
Dear Mayor Curtis:

Thank you for your letter of 28 January 1971 concerning our Lower Clearwater River study.

The copies of the articles and speeches you sent describe very well the dilemma we face in trying to meet the increasing demands for resources, and still conserve these same resources to preserve the quality of the environment. Hopefully, we can reconcile some of these conflicting demands, and develop a plan of operation for the Dworshak project that will not adversely affect the river environment.

The Lower Clearwater River study is a part of the Columbia River and Tributaries review report. The overall study purpose is to consider means of best satisfying future water resource needs in view of changed conditions over the past 20 years. One of the principal future needs will be, as you know, for electrical power, and particularly for peaking power, as the system changes from primarily hydro to a system with a thermal base and hydro peaking. The peaking capability of each plant in the system varies, especially in the degree of its effect on downstream river environment. The study will evaluate these variations, and any recommendations will give careful consideration to environmental factors.

I think that the principal consideration at present is that these studies be completed to provide a basis for rational decisions. I am more concerned by the lack of support by responsible agencies and individuals for the study's need, than I am by the extent of opposition to any development, as expressed at the public meeting, and in statements

NPWEN-PL

17 February 1971

Honorable A. B. Curtis

received subsequently. The reason for my concern is also well expressed in the talk by John Carver that you sent, especially the portion you bracketed on page 7.

In view of the general apprehension that the purpose of the study is to justify a reregulating dam, I anticipate that we will have considerable difficulty obtaining meaningful public participation in the planning process. I think it would be very helpful if some responsible local or state group, that recognizes the importance of a careful analysis of all aspects of our resources, were to assume leadership in the definition and expression of truly representative public views. I would appreciate any suggestions along this line that you may have.

I appreciated your kind remarks, and I hope that you can furnish me with some ideas of how we can establish a meaningful participation by the public and/or their representatives in the study process. Members of my staff are always willing to meet with responsible groups or individuals to discuss the study objectives and the study findings as they develop.

Sincerely yours,



RICHARD M. CONNELL
Colonel, CE
District Engineer