

COPY

STATE OF WASHINGTON
Executive Department
OLYMPIA

Arthur B. Langlie
Governor

June 29, 1954

S. D. Sturgis, Jr.
Major General
Chief of Engineers
Department of the Army
Washington, D. C.

and

C O P Y

W. A. Danksimer
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

The letter of May 21, 1954 addressed to Mr. Wm. A. Calbraith and signed jointly by the Chief of Army Engineers and Commissioner of Reclamation, has been brought to my attention. This letter indicates that there was transmitted to the State of Washington official copies of studies purporting to cover "The Middle Snake River, Snake River and Tributaries, Idaho-Montana-Nevada-Oregon-Utah-Washington-Wyoming."

Study leads me to believe that the scope of these reports is much narrower than indicated by your letter of transmittal. They appear to cover only a portion of the development of the Clearwater River and two projects on the main stem of the Snake River between the mouth of the Salmon River and the projects proposed for the development of Hell's Canyon.

Careful study of the assumptions on which both reports were based, indicates that these assumptions are unrealistic and that studies based on these assumptions have resulted in conclusions that are not particularly factual as related to project design, cost of construction or completeness in river basin development.

Studies which I have had prepared appear to show that storage on the Clearwater River is of much greater value than outlined in the report. Because under-development of the two principal tributaries of

C O P Y

STATE OF WASHINGTON
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Messrs. Sturgis and Dexheimer

Page Two

June 29, 1954

the Snake River, the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers, can only result in the need of over-development of the Columbia River in Canada, for which the United States will be expected to make major contributions, it is my belief that a more complete study should be made than could reasonably be expected with the funds, manpower and time so far allotted for this purpose.

Storage for flood control placed on the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers is nearly twice as effective in controlling floods on the lower Columbia River as storage at the Mica Creek project on the Columbia River above Revelstoke in Canada. It is essential that major developments be made on the Clearwater and Salmon Rivers to afford the maximum power and flood control values.

The design characteristics of the proposed projects of the Army Engineers at Bruce's Eddy and Penny Cliffs are good and are reasonable in cost. Their location, however, is not such as to give complete control of the river.

The two projects proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation for the development of a portion of the main stem of the Snake River above the mouth of the Salmon River are not suitable for the development of that stretch on the river. Their cost is nearly double what it should be; the attempt to operate storage reservoirs on that stretch of the river has resulted in major losses of stream-flow energy; the design characteristics are extravagant and the operating characteristics of the project are clumsy and ineffective. It should be possible to design projects which, without encroaching upon the tailwater of projects upstream, would develop some 525 feet of head at a cost somewhat less than half of that proposed in the Bureau report.

There is attached to this letter a copy of a report entitled: "Review of Reports Relating to the Development of the Snake River" which includes studies which form the basis of the conclusions drawn in this letter.

In conclusion, I would like to say again, a more complete study should be made of the two principal tributaries of the Snake River so that the very best program may be evolved.

Sincerely yours,

ABL:ah
Attachment

/s/ Arthur B. Langlie
GOVERNOR