

UNITED STATES SENATE
Committee on Appropriations

July 16, 1954

Honorable A. B. Curtis
Mayor, City of Orofino
Orofino, Idaho

Dear Burt:

Enclosed is a letter I have just received from Brigadier General E. C. Itschner, concerning the status of the Middle Snake Report.

Also enclosed are copies of letters from Governor Jordan of Idaho and Governor Langlie of Washington.

I send you all these documents so that you will understand why it will be difficult to get any consideration for authorizational legislation at this Session.

In questioning Colonel Whipple at an Appropriations Committee Meeting yesterday, he said that before the matter can be sent to Congress, it must receive clearance of the Budget Bureau. However, the report cannot be submitted to the Budget Bureau until all of the Governors have expressed their views. Since the Governor of Oregon will not have his expressions in before August 1, it is almost a foregone conclusion that the Budget Bureau could not clear the matter for consideration of the Congress in time for this Session. The hitch is, you will see, were not those of our own making.

With kindest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

(Signature of Henry Dworshak)

Enclosures

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Office of the Chief of Engineers
Washington

16 July 1954

Honorable Henry C. Dworshak
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Dworshak:

In response to your request, I am pleased to furnish the status of the Middle Snake Report as follows.

The proposed joint report of the Chief of Engineers and the Secretary of the Interior was out to the States and Federal agencies for comment on 21 May 1954. Prior to this time, coordination with the Interior Department had been completed. Prompt replies indicating no objection to the report have been received from Wyoming, Nevada and Utah. The Governor of Idaho has sent a reply which we consider very favorable to the Corps of Engineers projects involved. The Governor of Washington has sent a reply raising questions as to the basic assumptions of the report, and indicating that projects proposed by the Corps of Engineers should have been located at sites which would provide a greater degree of flood control for the Clearwater Basin. Copies of both of these replies are inclosed. The Governor of Oregon has now indicated that his reply will probably not be forthcoming prior to 1 August.

In view of the questions raised by the Governor of the State of Washington and the fact that the Governor of Oregon has not yet submitted his report, there appears relatively little chance of obtaining consideration of this matter by the Congress during the present session.

It is impossible for us to tell at this time what action will be taken to reconcile the views of the Governors and what can be done in the way of the final report. This problem is particularly difficult in view of the even more serious questions raised with regard to projects proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation and the necessity for coordination with that agency in the further handling of the report.

Sincerely yours,

(Signature of E. C. Itschner)

2 Incl:
1 Ltr dtd 7/1/54
State of Idaho
2 Ltr dtd 6/29/54
State of Washington

E. C. ITSCHNER
Brigadier General, USA
Assistant Chief of Engineers
for Civil Works