DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WALLA WALLA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGE OF DATE OF PUBLIC MEETING
ON LOWER CLEARWATER RIVER, IDAHO

MEETING TO BE HELD AT 7:30 PM, PST
ON 19 NOVEMBER 1970
IN THE BALLROOM
OF THE HOTEL LEWIS-CLARK
LEWISTON, IDAHO

The Public Meeting, which was originally scheduled for 22 October 1970, has been postponed until 19 November 1970, to provide interested parties more time to become acquainted with the study purpose and objectives, and to prepare testimony for the meeting.

To insure all interested individuals or groups the opportunity to contribute in full measure to the meeting, the District Engineer, upon request, will endeavor to answer all pertinent questions, either by mail, or through public and group informational meetings, prior to the meeting.

Any group or individual may request an informational meeting by notifying the District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, City-County Airport, Walla Walla, Washington 99362, or by calling Chief of Planning Branch, Area Code 509-525-5500, Ext. 308.

HAROLD L. MATTHIAS
Major, CE
Acting District Engineer

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING
ON LOWER CLEARWATER RIVER, IDAHO

MEETING TO BE HELD AT 7:30 PM, PDT
ON 22 OCTOBER 1970
IN THE BALLROOM
OF THE HOTEL LEWIS-CLARK
LEWISTON, IDAHO

The Congress of the United States has directed the Corps of Engineers to make a study of the Lower Clearwater River, between Lewiston and Ahsahka, Idaho, with particular reference to further development of the land and water resources to meet anticipated regional requirements. This study requirement is contained in a resolution adopted 27 July 1962 by the Committee on Public Works of the United States Senate, which requested the review of pertinent reports on the Columbia River and Tributaries, with a view to determining whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at this time.

In order that the study may be responsive to the desires and needs of affected or interested parties, a public meeting will be held as indicated above. The purpose of this meeting is to exchange information concerning the study, the water resource and related problems involved, and possible solutions. Information is also sought on ecological and environmental conditions and problems in the study area.

The need for this study arises from the changed conditions in water resource development and management throughout the Pacific Northwest during the past two decades, plus the forthcoming completion of Dworshak Dam. In this study alternative plans for use and regulation of the water resource of the area will be investigated. Consideration will be given to all useful purposes and the plans will be evaluated as they affect national income, regional development, environment and other social well-being objectives. The study will include factors that may influence the use and benefits of the water resource, including regulation of flows and water temperature from the Dworshak project.

All interested parties are invited and urged to be present or represented at this meeting, including representatives of Federal and non-Federal

public agencies; agricultural, commercial, industrial, business, transportation, and utilities interests; civic, ecological and environmental, boating, recreation, and fish and wildlife organizations; and interested or concerned citizens, property owners, and other interests. All parties will be afforded full opportunity to express their views and furnish specific data on matters pertinent to the study, including technical, economic, and ecological and environmental material. Statements should be supported by factual information insofar as practicable.

Since regulation of the Dworshak powerplant releases will permit significant alteration of downstream water temperatures and river stage fluctuations, specific data that interested parties are urged to present include estimates of present and future use of the lower Clearwater River, assuming little or no change in existing river temperatures and stage fluctuations, and similar estimates assuming that water temperatures and stage fluctuations are modified to enhance some uses. Information presented should indicate the benefits, and the adverse effects, if any, of any proposed flow regulation or water resource use.

Oral statements will be heard but, for accuracy of record, all important facts and statements should be submitted in writing, in duplicate. Written statements may be handed to the presiding officer at the meeting or may be mailed beforehand to the undersigned at the Corps of Engineers' address in the letterhead. Statements so mailed should indicate that they are in response to this announcement. All statements, both oral and written, will become part of the official written record on this study and will be made available for public examination.

Final selection of a plan for recommendation to higher authority will be made only after full consideration is given to the views of responsible agencies, groups, and citizens. However, this cannot be taken as an indication that the Federal Government will undertake any improvements or programs. Although the study may result in recommendations for undertakings by the Federal Government, their accomplishment would depend upon subsequent authorization and funding by the U. S. Congress.

To insure all interested individuals or groups the opportunity to contribute in full measure to the meeting, the District Engineer, upon request, will endeavor to answer all pertinent questions, either by mail, or through public and group informational meetings, prior to the meeting. An information pamphlet that briefly describes the study purpose and objectives is attached hereto.

Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who is interested in this matter.

Richard M Connell

RICHARD M. CONNELL
Colonel, CE
District Engineer

INFORMATION PAMPHLET
LOWER CLEARWATER RIVER STUDY
WALLA WALLA DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

INTRODUCTION:

The Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers, has recently initiated a study of the Lower Clearwater River between Orofino and Lewiston, Idaho. The study is a portion of an overall review of the Columbia River and tributaries developmental plan necessitated by recent developments and changed conditions in the basin. One of the principal items of review concerns the means of meeting electrical power demands during periods of peak use.

Since the Lower Clearwater River will be affected by the operation of Dworshak powerplant, which will begin operation in November 1972, studies are necessary to determine an operating scheme that will be most beneficial to all water resource and related environmental needs. Dworshak Dam and powerplant have been designed to allow a considerable flexibility in operation and water release. A number of alternatives exist.

In order to obtain the views and desires of all interested parties regarding this matter, a public meeting will be held in Lewiston at 7:30 PM on 22 October 1970 at the Hotel Lewis-Clark. In addition, informational meetings with concerned groups and individuals will be held prior to the public meeting, if requested, to provide them an opportunity to become better acquainted with the study purpose and objectives so they can effectively participate both in the formal meeting and the ensuing planning activities.

AUTHORITY FOR STUDY:

The study is authorized by a resolution of the Committee on Public Works of the United States Senate, adopted 27 July 1962, which requested a review of House Document 403, 87th Congress, 2nd Session, "Columbia River and Tributaries," to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at this time, with particular reference to further development of the land and water resources to meet anticipated regional requirements. The resolution recognized the need to review and up-date the Columbia River Basin developmental plan proposed in H.D. 403, due to the changed conditions since the original plan was proposed.

STUDY OBJECTIVES:

One of the principal items of the review concerns the means for satisfying periodic high demands (peaking needs) on the entire Columbia River system. The demand for electrical power in the Pacific Northwest region doubles about every twelve years. In order to meet its future power needs, the region will have to shift from its reliance on hydroelectric generation to a system composed of both hydroelectric and thermal (nuclear or fossil fuel) generation. Thermal plants must be constructed to meet continuous (baseload) demands while the hydro system will be operated primarily to carry peaking demands. In connection with this, regulation of the Dworshak powerplant, as a part of the regional hydro system, can require water flow releases which could have a significant effect on the environment of the Lower Clearwater River. Studies are therefore necessary to determine the best operating scheme considering alternative impacts and various beneficial uses.

To comply with the authorizing resolution, it will also be necessary to consider other water resource needs in the area. A number of alternative schemes will be investigated, including regulation principally for environmental quality and possible future multipurpose development on Lower Clearwater River. These studies will be coordinated with the public and with interested agencies prior to submission of a report in response to the resolution.

PRESENT CONDITIONS:

The Lower Clearwater River is used extensively for water-oriented recreation, principally steelhead and bass fishing, swimming, and boating. The Clearwater River is impounded near Lewiston for power generation and log storage. The Camas Prairie Railroad and U. S. Highway 12 are located alongside the river throughout the reach under study. Several small communities are located in the valley, and some irrigated agriculture is carried on. The river furnishes municipal and industrial water supply to Lewiston and water for irrigation. In the past, it was used for a large annual log drive from the North Fork Clearwater River to a forest industries mill at Lewiston.

The natural fluctuation in the flow of Lower Clearwater River is typical of snow-fed streams; high flows occur from April through June, with low flows during the remainder of the year. Occasionally, extremely high flows cause flood damages at Ahsahka, Riverside, and Peck.

The natural water temperatures in the river vary from 32°F. in February to over 72°F. in July and August. This temperature regime provides a favorable habitat for bass and squaw fish, but it is too warm in the summer for trout and salmon spawning. It provides comfortable temperatures for swimming for about 2 months each summer.

Fish ladders at the Washington Water Power Company Lewiston Dam, which permit anadromous fish to migrate upriver, have permitted the Idaho Fish and Game Department to successfully re-establish a salmon run that spawns in Middle Fork Clearwater River and its tributaries. The present steelhead run in the North Fork will be maintained through operation of the Dworshak fish hatchery.

The Nez Perce Indian Reservation borders the river. The Nez Perce National Historic Park is being developed in the area, with headquarters at Spalding. Also, two state parks are located along this reach of river; Spalding State Park at Spalding, and Lewis and Clark State Park at Riverside.

FUTURE CONDITIONS:

After Dworshak Reservoir begins filling in 1971, the North Fork Clearwater River, which contributes about 40 percent of the flow in the Clearwater River below Ahsahka, will be subject to nearly complete regulation. The high flows that occur on the North Fork during spring runoff will be stored to be released during the normal low-flow seasons.

During the summer months, beginning in May, temperature stratification will occur in the reservoir. This means that the warmer water will be on the surface, and during August will reach a maximum of about 70°F., while at depths of two to three hundred feet, and below, the water temperature will always remain below 45°F. The power penstock intake system at Dworshak Dam is designed to permit the withdrawal of water from the reservoir at any temperature between these two extremes. By proper selection, it will be possible for water releases to approximately match the natural temperatures in the main stem of the river during the months from March through October. Alternatively, if the reservoir withdrawals were made only at the lower levels, the natural maximum summer water temperatures in the lower river could be reduced by about 13°F; from 75°F. to 62°F. Temperature variation alternatives at the dam can be used to achieve differing environmental effects downstream on Lower Clearwater River. During winter months the releases would be about 5°F. to 10°F. warmer than the natural river temperature.

The minimum water release from Dworshak reservoir is currently planned to be 1,000 cfs. With the initial three power units installed, the

maximum water release through the powerplant could be as much as 11,200 cfs. Consequently, if powerplant peaking operation is unrestricted, the discharge could fluctuate rapidly between these two extremes, and result in a change in water level in the Clearwater River below the mouth of the North Fork up to a maximum of about 3 feet.

It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers to operate its projects to provide optimum multipurpose benefits for all beneficial purposes. To carry out this policy the study will consider all effects of power operation so reasonable decisions can be reached that make best use of the water resource. It will be one of the principal purposes of this study to determine the degree of constraint desirable at Dworshak, both from the standpoint of downstream environmental factors and power production.

LONG-RANGE NEEDS:

A further study objective will be to consider the overall water resource needs of the Lower Clearwater River Basin. These will include the long-range needs for additional flood protection, irrigation, municipal and industrial water supplies, water quality control, navigation, fish and wildlife enhancement, recreation, and power. It is important that any proposed operational scheme considers all water resource needs, present and future.

One future regional need that is already evident is for additional power. In anticipation of this need, the Dworshak project is being constructed with provisions for three future generating units. If, and when, these are installed, the total generating capacity would be increased to more than double the initial installation. Since the future units would be most effective for peaking purposes, their unrestricted use could cause fluctuations up to 7 feet in downstream river levels as power output is varied. The need for full peaking capacity usually occurs in mid-winter, but the resultant river level fluctuations may be large enough to require some degree of discharge control to prevent damage to downstream river environment and to integrate possible water releases with the basin-wide river system. The study will, therefore, review this situation. The estimated economic benefits that would be foregone if the future power units are not installed, and/or the operation restricted, will be compared with the estimated social and the environmental values of the river.

PERTINENT STUDIES:

There are, at present, several investigations underway that will provide data to evaluate the effects of Dworshak operation on the downstream river environment. In connection with the Dworshak Reservoir preimpoundment

studies, the Idaho Fish and Game Department is studying fish populations in the Lower Clearwater River. Water quality samples are being analyzed monthly by the Corps of Engineers, and continuous water temperatures recordings are being made at several locations. The Idaho Water Resource Research Institute at the University of Idaho under contract with the Corps of Engineers, is preparing an environmental impact report that considers both present and potential uses of the river and associated land resources. The findings of this report will be presented at the public meeting in October.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

It is not only desirable, but necessary, that the public participate in the planning process to insure that all water resource needs and desires are afforded proper consideration. All interests are therefore encouraged to express their views at the public meeting, and at any time during the study period.

This pamphlet has presented a brief description of the study purpose, its needs, and its objectives. Many questions will remain unanswered, and for that reason, it is proposed to hold public and group informational meetings prior to the public meeting. The purpose of these meetings will be to provide information that is now available and to discuss possible alternatives for the optimum powerplant operation and water flow releases. Any group or individual may request such a meeting by notifying the District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, City-County Airport, Walla Walla, Washington 99362, or by calling Chief of Planning Branch, Area Code 509-525-5500, Ext. 308.

The formal public meeting will be held in Lewiston on 22 October 1970. At that time any individual may present a statement for the records expressing his views and desires. Other meetings will be held during the study as the need arises. Inquiries regarding the study may be addressed to the District Engineer at any time, and every reasonable effort will be made to provide answers.