

# PUBLIC WORKS APPROPRIATIONS, 1956

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1955

## UNITED STATES SENATE, SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, Washington, D. C.

The subcommittee met at 10 a. m., pursuant to call, in room F-39, the Capitol, Hon. Allen J. Ellender (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Senators Ellender, Hayden, McClellan, Robertson, Gore, Young, Smith, and Dworshak.

### CIVIL FUNCTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

#### CORPS OF ENGINEERS

**STATEMENTS OF S. D. STURGIS, JR., MAJOR GENERAL, THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS; E. C. ITSCHNER, BRIGADIER GENERAL, ASSISTANT CHIEF FOR CIVIL WORKS; E. KIRBY-SMITH, LIEUTENANT COLONEL, CHIEF, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND CIVIL FUNCTIONS SECTION; B. J. TOFANI, CHIEF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT BRANCH; AND J. R. BRENNAN, CHIEF, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT BRANCH, CORPS OF ENGINEERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

Senator DWORSHAK. Senator, what I was referring to specifically in the Columbia River Basin proposals was for a multiple-purpose dam whereby the Army Engineer Corps would assume the responsibility for financing the flood-control element of the project while a local private utility might be enabled to come in and finance the power-generating facilities of a multiple-purpose project. So far no formula has been worked out to cover such cases.

#### POLICY OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS

General STURGIS. We think it is a general principle, as you describe, sir. But each case requires a specific analysis. For example, the main point of our Federal interest is to be sure that all water resources of that particular river at that point are developed. That is our duty in the Corps of Engineer. Sometimes it might be better for us to build a project with financial cooperation from them, and sometimes it may develop that private interests should build the project with private assistance from the Federal Government in exchange for the actual functions that are incorporated.

Senator DWORSHAK. What I am trying to ascertain is this: That, so far, the Army engineers have not actually worked out a formula for the partnership plan of building multiple-purpose projects. You say specifically in the Markham Ferry project you did have an authorization, but on such authorizations as we might say involving Bruces Eddy on the North Fork of the Clearwater there has been considerable planning and engineering work accomplished on that project which is multiple purpose, with elements of flood control, of providing storage to firm generation of power downstream, and with considerable generation at the site. Now, do you think it is possible to work out some plan which will enable private utilities to finance and operate the power-generating facilities of such a project?

General STURGIS. Yes, sir; I think that it is perfectly feasible to work out partnerships. The particular one you mention, Bruces Eddy, does not lend itself, and I do not think the utility companies would be interested. The downstream benefits from storage amount to a great deal of money. Now the power companies have no way of collecting that. Also, for example, those to the Clearwater, Bruces Eddy, being on the Clearwater, you know we have estimated that, in order to avoid flooding or to reduce it to proper proportions, we need 27 million acre-feet of storage. We only have 12 million acre-feet of storage out there now. The Clearwater, being relatively downstream, the nearer you have dams to the area protected the more effective is your storage going to be. We feel that Bruces Eddy would probably be one not wanted by the power companies but vital to us.

Senator DWORSHAK. Then there are others that are more or less isolated and not related so thoroughly to the water regulation downstream as Bruces Eddy?

General STURGIS. Yes, sir.