

Boise Meeting to Bring Water Policies Planners

By Associated Press

Three groups whose decisions will help determine how much power and irrigation water the Pacific northwest ultimately will get from the Columbia river and its tributaries meet in Boise this week.

The Pacific Northwest Governors Power Policy committee meets Wednesday morning, the Columbia Basin Interagency committee Wednesday afternoon and the Columbia Basin Compact commission Thursday and Friday.

Gov. Len Jordan said Saturday that the three other governors on the power committee—Arthur Langlie of Washington, Paul Patterson of Oregon and Hugo Aronson of Montana—would be here. Premier William A. C. Bennett of British Columbia will be unable to attend.

Dam Decision Planned

Naming of an engineering subcommittee will be the principal business of the power committee. The engineers will go over all available data on dams, according to Jordan, and come up with recommendations. From those the committee hopes to decide which dams it thinks should be built, who should build them, and in what priority.

Included on the power committee are representatives of private utilities as well as municipal and other public utilities and federal and state agencies. It was set up at Jordan's instigation to implement, he said, the Eisenhower administration's "partnership" policy.

It was an outgrowth of the CBIAC, which includes state and federal agencies planning development of all types of resources. The interagency committee will consider at its session a subject which will eventually come before the power group: The Army Engineers' proposal for two dams on the Clearwater river in north Idaho.

Development Eyed

Five Northwest power companies have asked permission of the Federal Power commission to look into the Bruce's Eddy and Penny Cliff sites proposed by the Army with an eye toward their developing the power while the government pays for such nonreimbursable benefits as flood control and navigation.

Power also is on the agenda of the commission which is trying to draw up a contract for a division of the Columbia's resources among the states.

Compacts for other river basins have divided the rivers' waters but this is the first attempt, according to Idaho Reclamation Engineer Mark Kulp, to include power in one. All the states except Utah, he said, have agreed with reservations, to inclusion of power.