

Bruce's Eddy Wins Highest Praise From Gen. Itschner

Describing Bruce's Eddy as the best flood control project in the Northwest, if not the entire United States, General E. C. Itschner, chief of the army corps of engineers forecast prompt action on pre-construction plans.

"Language must be inserted in the current appropriation bill in congress, or in the report of the bill by the appropriation committee, to permit spending of \$500,000 already allotted by congress a year ago for the drawing of detailed project plans," the general told Orofino Water Resource committee members. He and staff members were honor guests at a luncheon at the VFW building which followed, an inspection of the pool area.

Colonels Here

Also guests were Colonel Myron Page, Walla Walla district engineer and his successor after Aug. 4, Col. P. H. Symbol; Division Engineer Allen F. Clark of Portland and Col. W. P. Leber, executive officer to General Itschner, all who were in the official party.

General Itschner said that as soon as clearance is obtained from Congress survey crews would be hired to stake out the area embraced in the proposed reservoir pool and that contract drillers would be employed to make rock studies.

The General said if congress would approve, the army corps would welcome local participation in the power phases of the project authorization by such an agency as the Pacific Northwest Power company.

Local sentiment for such participation has been strong, particularly since the Pacific Northwest company has met with stumbling blocks in its efforts to get a license on a Snake river project. Use of non-federal funds would create a valuable local tax base.

The general told the group that he has read carefully all of the state and federal reports on the possible or probable impact of Bruce's Eddy on wildlife and fish resources of the Clearwater, and on the basis of these studies, is convinced that diehard opposition to the project from these sources is either not interested in their objective findings, or desires to remain ignorant.

Since the Clearwater contributed 16% of the waters of the 1948 flood, without a single drop of storage space, this project has the most flood control potential, in addition to fabulous power benefits, both at the site and downstream, the chief of the army corps said.

In the local party were Frank Frost, R. H. Oud, B. H. Bear, Ray McNichols, R. D. Werner, Lynn Atwood and Curtis. From Lewiston were Harry Hughes, John Hughes, Roy Huffman and Ted Dufour.