

Engineers Start Surveys Of Snake River Damsites

WALLA WALLA P — The Walla Walla district office of the Army Engineers has started new surveys of eight hydroelectric dam sites in the middle Snake river basin, it was announced Tuesday.

An order from Maj. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, chief of the engineers, calls for surveys of the Nez Perce and Mountain Sheep sites on the Snake, Crevice on the Salmon river, Kooskia, Fork and Penny cliffs on the

middle fork of the Clearwater, and Elkberry and Bruce's Eddy on the north fork of the Clearwater.

Congress earmarked a \$140,000 appropriation for new feasibility reports to supplement earlier studies on the Snake and its principal tributaries. Congress ordered the report by next January.

All the sites to be surveyed would be for storage dams. Some have been proposed as alternatives to the controversial Hells Canyon project on the Idaho-Oregon border.

The Army Engineers, in a 1950 survey of the Columbia Basin, found the Nez Perce and Hells Canyon sites jointly offered the maximum benefits from the middle stretch of the Snake; the Crevice site best adapted to development of the Salmon, and the Kooskia the best in the Salmon. All four have been controversial.

Col. F. S. Tardy, Walla Walla district engineer, said work on the surveys and new reports started earlier this month.