

Engineers' Survey of Sites In Northwest Given Approval

Announcement by the Corps of Engineers of eight hydroelectric site surveys soon to be conducted in the Snake River Basin brought enthusiastic approval from Herbert G. West, executive vice president of Inland Empire Waterways Association, a group which long has advocated storage projects on the headwaters of Pacific Northwest streams.

West stated that the key to comprehensive basin planning lies in the erection of upstream dams which will serve the dual purpose of providing hydroelectric power and flood control, with additional benefits to navigation and reclamation.

"I am pleased to note that this survey order takes recognition of the importance of upstream proj-

ects in increasing benefits we already are deriving from run-of-the-river dams," West said.

Order for the survey, to be conducted by the Walla Walla District Office, came from Maj. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, Jr., Chief of the Corps of Engineers, who visited the Pacific Northwest this spring

Have Been Examined

All the sites in question were examined by the Corps of Engineers, and reported on in the "308 Review Report", issued in 1948. They include Nez Perce and Mountain Sheep on the Snake, Crevice on the Salmon, Kooskia, Forks and Penny Cliffs on the middle fork of the Clearwater, and Elkberry and Bruce Eddy on the Clearwater's north fork.

West pointed to the recently com-

pleted Hungry Horse project in Montana as an example of the value of such upstream dams to the comprehensive development program of water resources. Hungry Horse, a Bureau of Reclamation dam, is on the south fork of the Flathead River, in northwest Montana.

"Although it is primarily a storage reservoir, Hungry Horse Dam will provide 197,000 new kilowatts of power for the area," West said. "However, its value in the coordinated scheme of regional development is emphasized by the fact that it will increase by 810,000 kilowatts the firm power capacity of existing plants downstream at Kerr, Thompson Falls, Cabinet Gorge, Alben Falls, Grand Coulee, Chief Joseph, Rock Island, McNary, The Dalles, and Bonneville.

Flood Control Benefit

"This power increase is in addition to the flood control benefits that will accrue as the Hungry Horse reservoir holds back upstream runoffs" he said.

West pointed out that private

utility operations share with public power producing agencies in the increase of kilowatt production due to Hungry Horse Dam.

"The same will hold true with projects constructed on the Snake, or its tributaries," he said. "I am encouraged by this action of the Corps of Engineers, and hope it prefaces a start soon to keep our development program moving forward."