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Objections to Army Engineers

Here, briefly, are the things at the bottom of local criticism of the army engineers in the Pend Oreille area:

(1) Despite repeated promises, both oral and written, dating back to 1948 and even earlier that acquisition of property for the Albeni Falls reservoir would be by individual negotiation, subject to review by a board of three competent local citizens, this procedure did not take place.

(2) From the time many years ago that engineers began trying to build local public support for Albeni Falls, they consistently reiterated that it was their legal responsibility to replace existing facilities that would be damaged by maintenance of the artificial high water level of Lake Pend Oreille, and that such replacement would take place before storage of water began. They referred repeatedly to such examples as the Sandpoint municipal beach and sewage disposal system.

To date, the sewage problem has not been settled satisfactorily, although in fairness to the engineers, it should be stated that some aspects of this unique problem are outside the realm of their legal capabilities.

(3) Through the years, engineers repeatedly asserted that all reservoir clearing would be accomplished prior to beginning of water storage. Such clearing did not take place until one year after storage began.

In this case as well as that of the Sandpoint beach, it should be pointed out that the action, late as it was, did not take place until after this area had had to appeal for congressional intercession.

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