

Andrus supports Palisades concept

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WASHINGTON— Secretary of Interior Cecil D. Andrus said Saturday he supports the concept of the State of Idaho going into the power business, such as the one proposed at Palisades Dam.

Andrus, a former Idaho governor, said in a Post-Register telephone interview, that while he indicates sympathy for such a proposal, he couldn't comment until he had seen the details of the state's plan to authorize installing a 90 megawatt generator plant at Palisades and market the power.

Andrus said Ken Dunn, Boise assistant director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources, plans to come to Washington the coming week to confer with R. Keith Higginson, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation director, and Joe Nagel, assistant to Andrus for federal-state relations, and himself on the project.

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I will want to see the details, but in principle, I support it. I will reserve judgment until after this briefing."

His tacit support augments that of Higginson, who earlier in the week, also had indicated favor. Higginson said he had considered such a plan when he headed the Idaho DWR before taking his present position two year ago.

Higginson noted \$263,000 has been earmarked by the USBR for a Palisades power plant expansion feasibility study.

Higginson said his plan had not gone so far as for the state to wholly finance such a project by revenue bonds at a federally-owned dam. He added that, in his opinion, it didn't make much difference who builds the plant, but that it is important to get as many generators on the line as possible to help meet the needs of the power hungry Western States.

Under the proposal, the DWR would negotiate for the USBR to install the generator.