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BULK RATE
PERMIT NO. 2
WARM SPRINGS, OR.

Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News



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KAH-NEE-TA VACATIONERS — Both the lodge and the village were filled to capacity over spring vacation as the Central Oregon sun lured tourists from the rainy Willamette Valley. Spring vacation is traditionally the signal for Kah-Nee-Ta's busy tourist season, although that time period is now extended to later in the year. Both the lodge and village pools were lined with sun-worshippers and people-watchers during the western half of the state's spring vacation.

Spilyay Tymoo Photo by Sid Miller

Full-time Fire Department Gets Nod From Council

by Sandy Rangila

In response to community concern for improved fire protection on the reservation, the Tribal Council has given its okay to the concept of a full-time, paid fire department.

At their March 16 meeting, the council authorized the tribal grants office to go after CETA funds for the initial hiring and training of 12 full-time fire fighters. Up to this point, fire department personnel have worked on a volunteer basis.

Grants specialist Art Tassie said that \$85,719 in CETA funds would cover the first six months of the program which would include basic training and turnout gear for the full-time firemen.

"If the funding application is approved, we would anticipate that screening and hiring of applicants could begin as early as the first week in April," said Tassie. He explained that the first CETA monies would be available for only the next six months, but that next year the

tribes would be eligible for twice that amount. CETA funding is made available during a fiscal year running from July and July.

After that, the tribes would be faced with the decision of whether or not to take over the fire department and cost of the operation, said Tassie. Currently, the department is operated through the BIA.

Tassie, also the spokesman for the fire and safety task force appointed by council, noted that becoming a certified fire fighter would be a good career opportunity for those willing to go through the 18-month training program. "It's good pay, and a certified fire fighter would be eligible to work with any fire department in the states," he said.

The question of quarters for on-duty firemen is still under discussion, with a number of alternatives being considered, according to Tassie.

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May Referendum Likely on Powerhouse Project

by Sandy Rangila

It appears likely that the Tribal Council will call for a referendum sometime in May to ask the people if they want to go ahead with the Tribes' hydroelectric project at the Pelton Reregulating Dam. Council will meet this Monday to set the referendum date and to schedule district meetings and a General Council.

"This is a sound project," engineering consultant Jerry Dibble told the Council when issuing the summary report March 26. It puts to use a productive resource that will not harm the environment, and it will provide energy equivalent to 135,000 barrels of oil per year, he said.

In presenting the conclusions of a six-month study for the Tribes, Dibble said that the project is feasible from an engineering, environmental and an economic standpoint. The powerhouse can be installed and operated safely and satisfactorily, he told the Council.

He said the effects of the project appear desirable from an environmental standpoint. This

powerhouse will be operated to provide steady release in the same manner as the existing reregulating dam has done, he said. The present license for Pelton specifies an even flow be maintained in the Deschutes River with a minimum fluctuation for protection of the fishery.

And he said there will be some fish enhancement since turbulence below the spillway will be reduced when the new powerhouse is installed.

Economically, Dibble said that at current high interest rates, the cost will be high. But he said the cost will equalize because of the high price of nuclear and other alternate power sources. The hydroelectric project will become more attractive financially in years to come, he said.

But inflation is a crucial consideration that has to be dealt with. "Time is money," Dibble emphasized. If the project could be built right now, with no inflation figured in, the project cost would be \$19,374,000, Dibble told the Council. With each month of delay the cost of the venture goes up \$175,000 — or \$2 million per year, he explained. So that brings the cost of the project up to \$25 million if completed on schedule in 1982, he reported.

He informed the Council that power sales contracts are the keystone to the project. "The power sales contract becomes collateral for the bond issue. It insures ample revenues for paying off the debt and operation of the facility," he explained.

Sales contract negotiations with private utilities and other interested parties would begin right away if the referendum passes, according to administrative branch manager Doug McClelland. "Outfits in the Northwest are hungry for power, so it

sure isn't going to hurt our stand," remarked Dibble. "New power plants aren't being developed fast enough to meet the growing load," he added. "So there is good potential for marketing the power."

The power now used on the reservation comes from Pacific Power & Light and Wasco Electric. Dibble said that in 1978, the total power consumed on the reservation was 32 million kilowatt hours.

The output of the proposed project would be 81 million kilowatt hours which is 2½ times more than we need, Dibble reported. He recommends that the Tribes market the output at the best available price through negotiations with potential buyers. Or, perhaps an even better route would be to put it out to bid, he suggested.

Funding alternatives for the project include Congressional monies, loans from private lending institutions, tribal funds, and the possibility of issuing bonds. "We hope that Congress will act this year on the Indian Tax Status Act," Dibble told the Council. The tax act (which would enable the Tribes to issue tax-exempt bonds) would get us "home free," he remarked.

The possibility of being able to sell tax-exempt bonds would make the project more attractive economically. Dibble explained that the issuance of such bonds would lower the interest rate from 10 per cent to about 7½ per cent. That translates into about \$5 million dollars right there," he advised the Council.

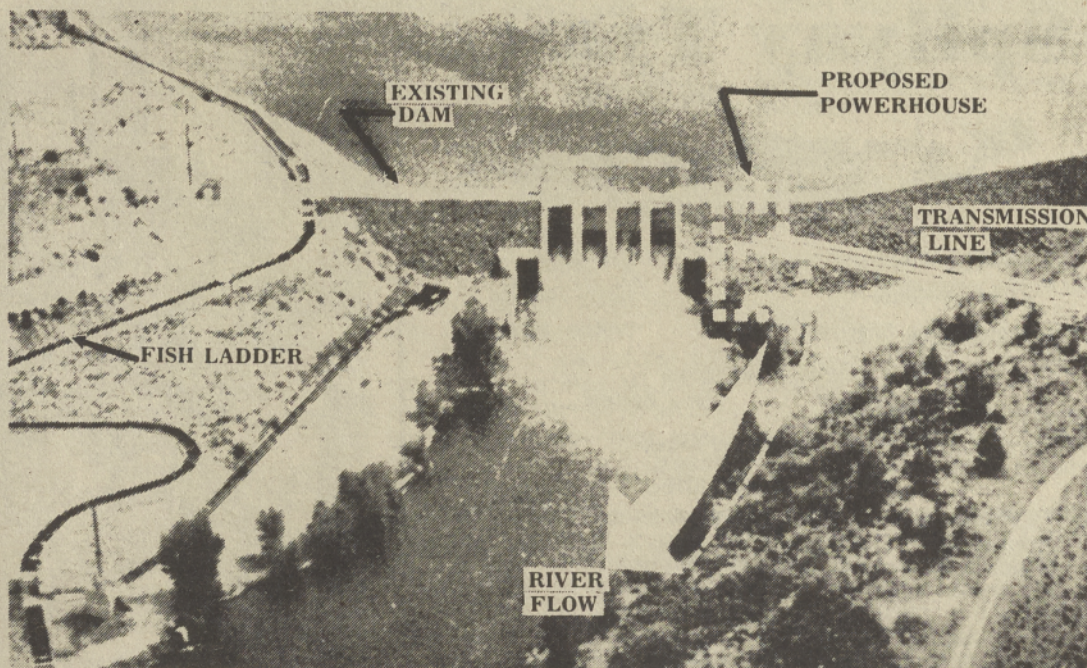
"It's still a good project even if the Tribes put up all the

funds," said Dibble. He does not recommend that route, however.

Since it will be one of the largest ventures the Tribes have ever undertaken, and because the project is significant to the future of the Tribes, the Council wants to make sure the people have a clear understanding of the project and the issues.

"I don't think we can get started any too soon — we've got to get this to the people," said Delbert Frank, Tribal Council vice-chairman.

"It still amazes me," he continued, "that our people had the foresight to put into that contract (with PGE) that the Confederated Tribes reserve the right to put in a power plant. It's interesting. We never knew what electricity was going to be worth."



PROPOSED POWERHOUSE SITE — This view of the Pelton Reregulating Dam (looking upstream) shows the location of the Tribes' proposed powerhouse and transmission line. In his summary report to the Tribal Council, engineering consultant Jerry Dibble said that the project is a sound one from an engineering, environmental and an economic standpoint.

Weather

March	HI	LO	PREC.
15	54	46	.10
16	55	40	.04
17	58	29	.02
18	54	40	
19	62	38	
20	60	31	
21	62	26	
22	65	30	
23	69	29	
24	70	32	
25	64	33	
26	59	42	
27	48	42	.35
28	59	39	.32