

Power Firm Submits Plans To FPC For Hells Canyon

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Idaho Power Co., said Wednesday the three dams it proposed to build in the Hells Canyon area, costing the taxpayers nothing, would more completely harness the Snake River than would a rival multi-million-dollar federal project.

The company made the statements in a 152-page brief submitted to the Federal Power Commission in support of its applications to construct three dams in the Snake River between Idaho and Oregon.

The Hells Canyon area of the Snake, deepest river gorge on the continent, also has been proposed as the site of a gigantic federal hydro-electric development, although Congress has not authorized it. Consequently, one of the nation's hottest private vs. public power fights was sparked when Idaho Power applied to dam the river in the canyon area.

The National Hells Canyon Assn. and other public power proponents opposing Idaho Power were expected to file their written arguments later Wednesday.

No surprises were contained in Idaho Power's brief nor were any foreseen in those of the public power groups or in one being mailed Wednesday by the state of Washington, which opposes the proposed federal dam. All were expected to point up oft-stated arguments brought out in 19,215 pages of testimony and 390 exhibits at the case's year-long hearing. All parties anxiously awaited a brief due from the FPC's legal staff, however. While the staff's recommendation will not necessarily indicate the commission's final ruling, it will serve as a clue as to how each side's case has impressed experts normally considered objective. The staff finding, too, will have great publicity and political value for whatever side it favors.

Additional briefs are to be submitted Jan. 10 and Jan. 31. Then examiner William J. Costello will work on his finding in the case, which almost certainly will be appealed to the FPC.

Idaho Power said in its brief that the three-dam plan is the best yet advanced for comprehensive

development of the Snake River. The company said the three dams could be constructed in a short time, at one-third the cost of the proposed federal project, which may never be built, for the production of power urgently needed in the Pacific Northwest.

The Morrison-Knudsen Co., Idaho Power pointed out, has offered to build the three dams for 133 million dollars, while the federal dam would cost "404 million dollars plus additional millions for transmission lines."

The company continued: "Applicant's 3-dam program fully provides the multipurpose development contemplated by the (Federal Power) Act. It has superior navigation benefits to any other proposed plan. It is superior in its recreation aspects, the combination of more stable pool levels and larger number of access roads making possible the full utilization of the recreational potentials of this area."

"It affords all flood control storage required in the Hells Canyon reach of the river, and would make possible the use of federal funds for more needed flood control on the Clearwater and on the upper tributaries of the Snake."

"It will be privately financed, and will contribute large amounts of tax benefits, both to state and local taxing units and to the federal government."

"There is no reason why the development of this stretch of the river should be undertaken by the United States. The superior plan proposed by the applicant, under license of the commission and surrounded by all the safeguards contained in the act, will serve the public interest in every respect."

"Applicant stands ready, willing and able promptly to commence and speedily to complete its program. No other entity has a present plan for any alternative development, and no alternative development is superior to applicant's plan."

Idaho Power said the federal Hells Canyon project's power production, in excess of the three dams' 783,000 kilowatts of dependable capacity, would be economically unjustified, costing "from two



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to three times" its benefit value. A single high dam in Hells Canyon, Idaho Power argued, would be a "gamble in a myriad of ways" because "its alleged superior power production depends on numerous assumptions and unorthodox methods of computing power contribution."

"At any rate, numerous Congresses, even in periods of vast expense and comparatively free spending, have in the past refused to authorize it. . . We doubt if any Congress will ever authorize it."

Idaho Power said the output of its dams would "be comparable to that which would be produced by other proposed projects costing many times more in public money."

LOST SHIP

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP) — The U.S. cruiser Pittsburgh and two U. S. Army tugs were ordered out Tuesday to hunt for another big Army tug adrift in the Pacific without a crew after it broke loose from a towship Monday.

Chemult

By HOPE N. BRADER

The annual turkey shoot held at the Chemult Rod and Gun Club grounds at Beaver Marsh on the 14th was well attended in spite of the cold and rain. The ladies of the Civic Club served coffee to everyone. Mrs. Myrtle Hash was in charge of coffee assisted by Mrs. Cap Jessup. Mrs. Hash was also in charge of the splatter board for winning turkeys, sponsored by the Civic Club. Winners of turkeys on the splatter board were Mrs. R. E. Jessup and Mrs. Myrtle Hash.

Word has been received from Mrs. Gordon Gooch, San Francisco, that her husband has been very ill and is confined to bed. Mr. Gooch is the father of Grady Gooch, Beaver Marsh.

Mrs. Lew Williams, who suffered from a fall a couple of weeks ago, is convalescing at home and improving rapidly.

Visitors at Willamette University over the weekend were Mrs. V. I. Brader and Jane who spent part of the time visiting Donald Brader.

Donald Gooch and Stephen Nason. The boys will all be home next weekend bringing with them Larry Hendrickson.

Mrs. Mildred Beckes is gathering toys for the Moose Lodge in sale.

Bend. Those who have toys to share may leave them at the post office. Also needed are nylon hose for the men at Camp White to make into woven articles for sale.

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