

seems unable or reluctant to control.

S.L. Tribune
June 20 '63 "Editorial"
Find Dam Break Cause

The Utah Water and Power Board reports that an investigating team representing the board and the South Kamas-Washington Irrigation Company has been unable to reach any conclusions as to the cause of failure of the Little Deer Creek Dam early Sunday morning.

Water pouring through a break in the earthfill dam, built for the irrigation company under a grant from the water and power board, wreaked havoc along nearly 50 miles of the Duchesne River Valley. One boy lost his life.

As The Tribune said in a previous editorial, it is of the utmost importance that the cause of failure of this brand-new dam be determined.

There are scores of other earthfill dams in Utah. They could have similar faults which endanger communities, property owners and recreationists below. Discovery of the cause of the Little Deer Creek Dam break could point to corrective action which might be taken at other structures.

The investigation might also lead to useful knowledge on future construction of earthfill dams, particularly the proposed Little Dell Dam high above Salt Lake City in Parleys Canyon.

Inability thus far of the irrigation company-power board investigating team to find the answer indicates that perhaps some other investigators ought to be brought in. Indeed we think it would be better to have the failure investigated by persons who have no direct interest in the ownership, design and construction of the dam.

SENATOR MOSS has asked the U.S. Army Engineers Corps to help repair damage caused by the flood. More appropriate might be a request to the corps to help determine the cause, so any future such disasters can be averted. The Bureau of Reclamation, perhaps even some independent qualified engineer, might also be asked to participate.

There is too much at stake here for procrastination or for anything less than the most thorough, qualified and unbiased investigation and public report.