

Federal Help Looms for Sanpete Dam

Bureau Makes Report on Gooseberry Job

The long-awaited Gooseberry dam project to provide supplemental irrigation on 10,000 acres in Sanpete county may be undertaken as a federal project, State Engineer T. H. Humpherys said Monday on receipt of a report from the United States bureau of reclamation of eight years' study on the project.

The report, covering studies begun in 1932 by the federal bureau in cooperation with the Utah water storage commission, already has been approved by A. O. Harper, chief engineer of the bureau of reclamation. It must also be approved by the state engineer before further steps can be taken toward the project.

Finance Difficulties

Much of the delay in completing the report, said Mr. Humpherys, was due to difficulties in finding a means of financing construction of the project, since the proposed development would not produce enough income to pay its own cost within a reasonable period of time.

However, the Case-Wheeler act, enacted May 9 of this year, provides \$3,500,000 of federal funds for financing up to 50 per cent of such projects through W P A or C C C, and provides the government may loan the remainder to be repaid over a 40-year period without interest. It now is thought the Gooseberry project may be brought under the terms of this act.

Project Described

The project involves construction of Gooseberry dam on Gooseberry creek seven miles east of Fairview in Sanpete county, or of an alternative mammoth dam three miles south on the same creek. It would provide storage of 10,000 acre feet of water for use in supplemental irrigation of 10,000 acres in San petec county.

Cost of the project originally was estimated at \$1,000,000, but several alternative plans have been included in the report, prepared under supervision of E. G. Nielson, bureau of reclamation engineer in charge of the investigation. No estimate can be made on the eventual cost until the state has determined which plan to favor, said Mr. Humpherys.

Routine Delays Gooseberry Water Project

Tribune Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 14
—The Gooseberry irrigation project, second on Utah's small reservoir program, is deeply enmeshed in the red tape set up by the second Case-Wheeler act. It has not yet been approved by any of the half dozen agencies which must approve it before it can go to the president.

Under this new law, every small reservoir project must be approved by the department of agriculture. The Gooseberry has run into snags in that department, where question has arisen whether it serves the major purposes and meets all the requirements of the law.

There is some intimation that the department of agriculture may find it necessary to make examinations in the field before rendering its judgment, though this is still being debated. No official would venture a guess as to when this project may go to the president for final approval; indeed, none save the reclamation bureau is yet willing to give the project unqualified approval.

The reclamation service apparently is satisfied that the project is feasible and desirable, but it no longer has full say, and Secretary Ickes cannot put his approval on the project until he gets clearance from the secretary of agriculture, from W P A, from the budget and from the national resources administration.

Gooseberry Project Will Be Pushed Ahead

News 8/24/40
MT. PLEASANT, Aug. 24.—T. W. Jensen had received a wire today from Senator William H. King, in Washington, D. C., advising that "Reclamation officials today advised entire cost of Gooseberry project approximately \$1,000,000, of which about \$500,000 or \$600,000 reimbursable.

"Engineering and other details being prepared. Am insisting this project be immediately undertaken. Officials regard it as important and are giving it every possible consideration."

This wire comes at this time of drouth as a hope for which the farmers of Sanpete County have long waited, realizing that only through the storage of additional water will this county be able to hold its own against drouth and the persistent lack of a fall.

Sen. King Reports Project Costs

MT. PLEASANT—Senator William H. King has advised Mayor Justus O. Seely, of Mt. Pleasant, T. W. Jensen, president of the Mt. Pleasant Lions club, and Dean W. Bench of the North Sanpete Irrigation company that reclamation officials in Washington, D. C. Thursday said the entire cost of the Gooseberry irrigation project would be approximately \$1,000,000, of which about \$500,000 or \$600,000 will be reimbursable.

Engineering and other details are being prepared. Senator King is urging that this project be immediately undertaken and has advised that Washington officials regard it as important and are giving it every possible consideration.

Sanpete Group Asks Early Project Ruling

Water Storage Board's Help Is Sought

7/14/39
The Utah water storage commission was urged Tuesday by a delegation from north Sanpete county to intercede with the United States bureau of reclamation in an effort to get an early report on the proposed Gooseberry project.

This project, which would include a 15,000 acre foot dam and a long tunnel, would provide supplementary water for 10,000 acres of land in the northern part of Sanpete county. The farmers are anxious to know if the bureau considers the project feasible from an engineering and economic standpoint.

Elmo L. Irons of Moroni, chairman of the water users' committee of North Sanpete, said the water made available by a project like Gooseberry would mean the difference between good crops and poor crops in a year like the present.

Crops Reduced

Mr. Irons said that in north Sanpete while the sugar beets are good there will be only about 25 per cent of a normal crop of alfalfa, grain, peas and potatoes because of frost and drouth. The southern part of Sanpete county, on the other hand, is in good condition because of the water provided by the Gunnison reservoir.

County commissioner Lyman Seeley was in the delegation which called on the commission.

Grover A. Giles, assistant attorney general, said the amendment proposed by Utah people to the bill amending the Boulder canyon act apparently is misunderstood by members of the congressional delegation.

Explains Object

The object of the amendment, he explained, is to make it perfectly clear that Utah and other Colorado river basin states can proceed with projects of their own without having to wait for completion of the comprehensive survey of the basin.

Leland H. Kimball, engineer and manager of the Colorado River-Great Basin Water Users' associa-

tion said he did not consider the latest amendment proposed by Representative Abe Murdock to be adequate. He said he fears the language of the amendment does not make Utah independent of the act.

Mr. Giles said he believes Utah is protected adequately without the amendment, but he sees no objection to one as a precautionary measure.

Mr. Pleasant Pyramid