

FEAR DAMAGE TO PIPELINE ACROSS RIVER

Commissioners Object To Dredging Near Pipeline

Fearful of possible damage to the river pipe line across the Skagit at Riverside through dredging operations the Commissioners of Public Utility District 1 yesterday instructed Attorney Warren J. Gilbert to take all necessary steps to protect the line.

DREDGE FOR FILL MATERIAL

Commissioners were told by Engineer Bob Yale that a meeting has been held with contractors who plan to get highway building materials through dredging between the two bridges at Riverside and that the contractors said they had taken all necessary permission steps to allow them to remove sand and gravel from the riverbed for the roadwork but that they would first set up their equipment near the city or across from Young's bar for dredging. It was thought that about three weeks will be needed for this first operation before the contractor will want to move to the Riverside work.

LINE IMPORTANT

Commissioners took a positive stand in the no excavation or dredging at all was to be done close to the 12-inch water line under the Skagit. They pointed out that water through that line is furnished to about 10,000 persons and considerable industrial work in Burlington and Sedro Woolley and that a cutoff of the line would necessitate at least three or four days to get more line through order and about the same time to install it.

HAVE OTHER SUPPLY

As a alternative for getting fill materials for the highway job the state has already bought land north of Fir street from which the contractor may haul for the project. It has been felt by the contractor that the longer haul would be more expensive than dredging.

SUGGESTS PIPE STOCKPILE

Yale suggested to the commissioners that a quantity of 16-inch pipe be bought to stockpile in the event of any accident saying that it can be used later when a projected Ranney well is added to the system.

The P. J. Anderson company is handling the fill job on contract. It is understood that equipment for dredging arrived yesterday morning and that operations across from Young's bar will start immediately. PUD commissioners said that it was their understanding that all materials would be taken from the bed of the river.

THE MOUNT VERNON ARGUS

RIVER CHANNEL WORK STARTED, LIMITED SCALE

Further Work Recommended By Engineer Study

The US army engineers' snag boat Preston was set to work this week to lower the bar at the mouth of the Skagit river north fork by six inches as emergency relief to freight boat and log rafting operations.

Rep. Jack Westland wired Mayor A. M. Novotny early in the week that this assistance had been worked out as a result of conferences his office arranged between the engineers and representatives of Skagit River Navigation company and Dunlap Towing company recently at the river mouth.

SIX-INCH CORRECT

Westland's research assistant Jack Anderson, told The Argus from Everett today that the six-inch figure was correct. He explained that the engineer's funds for such work was limited. The river users said, however, according to Anderson, that the six-inch lowering of the bar would be a big help for high tide crossings.

MORE WORK LATER

At the same time, W. E. Spencer, assistant chief of operations for the engineers, advised Westland that a study was being put under way of a possible permanent project to open the North Fork mouth and keep it clear. This probably would require some kind of retaining system to keep the channel open. When the engineering recommendations are made, an appropriation request to congress probably will follow.

Westland's office was told that the engineers originally had been studying ways of opening the South Fork for better navigation but had switched to the North Fork as the request of the river shippers.

The six-inch lowering of the North Fork channel bottom "will mean the difference between vessels and rafts stranding or making the passage safely," Westland's telegram to the mayor said.

Pres. R. T. (Ted) Reep of the Mount Vernon chamber of commerce welcomed the message because, he pointed out, the chamber recently went to work on the river channel problem at the request of various interested groups.