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Engineers Set Conditions For Skagit Flood Control

Ten conditions to be met by "local interests" have been suggested by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in connection with flood control and allied improvements on the Skagit River basin.

Study of the project was authorized in 1960 and public hearings were held in 1961 and 1964 as well as numerous public discussions.

The recommended plan of improvement consists of a levee and channel improvement project for the protection of the Skagit River Valley downstream from Sedro-Woolley and modification of the presently authorized Avon By-Pass project to permit Federal participation in the construction of recreation facilities.

In its report the engineers recommended the following 10 points because of the local benefits to be realized from the recommended improvements. Local interests would be required to:

1. Provide with cost to the United States, all lands, easements and rights-of-way necessary for the construction of the projects.
2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the construction works.
3. Maintain and operate all the works after completion in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Army.
4. Provide without cost to the United States all relocations of buildings and utilities, roads, sewers, related and

special facilities necessary for construction of the projects.

5. Provide assurances that encroachment on improved channels will not be permitted.

6. Notify the public annually of the limited flood protection provided by the recommended works subsequent to their construction.

7. Secure the water rights necessary for operation of the recommended works for recreational purposes.

8. With respect to recreational facilities, provide cash, equivalent work, or lands so that the non-Federal share shall be at least 50 per cent of the total first cost of the development.

9. Assure public access for all on equal terms for recreation development.

10. Submit plans for any additional recreational development of the Avon Bypass project to the Secretary of the Army for approval and determination of the Federal interest prior to construction.

The report is now being referred for review to the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors in Washington, D.C. Skagit County groups and individuals concerned with the report may present written views on the report to the Board. Further information may be obtained from the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, 1519 Alaska Way, South, Seattle, Wash. 98134. Single copies of the report may be purchased for \$4.50.