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PERMIT TO DIVERT BAKER RIVER ASKED BY POWER COMPANY

WANTS PERMISSION TO BUILD HUGE POWER DAM NEAR THIS CITY-WORK WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1926

Further indications of the intention of the Stone & Webster interests to immediately start the development of the power resources of the Baker river valley were the application last week by the company for a permit from the state to divert the waters of the river, and the further fact that about 15 engineers and surveyors arrived in town last Thursday and left the next day for the upper Baker to start preliminary work on the huge project.

The application for the permit from the state was filled last week by the Puget Sound Power & Light Company, a subsidiary corporation of Stone & Webster, and asks Marvin Chase, the state supervisor of hydraulics, for permission to divert 4,000 second feet of water from the Baker River for hydro-electric power purposes.

The application states that 65,000 horsepower of electricity is expected to be developed in the project. Work on the development, which will be known as the Baker River Power Development, Eden site, will be started about September 30, 1926, if the permit is granted, according to the application. It is generally understood that the Eden site is at the head of the Baker river canyon, about a half mile north of town, and the application indicates that what is known as to be lower dam is to be built first. If the dam is built on this site, the power plant will likely be located in this city, with a steel or concrete pipe line from the dam to the power plant.

The application states that a dam will be built, 235 feet high and 325 feet long at the top. This dam would be about 40 feet higher than the high trestle across the Baker river on the Superior railroad. Engineers claim that there is an ideal place for a dam at the point mentioned.

Just what work is being done by the engineering and surveying crew that arrived in town last week has not been learned. The party left with their equipment and supplies for the Baker river valley and did not make any mention of the work to be taken up now. As the construction of the power project requires extensive preliminary work, it is believed that the men on the ground now are mapping out this work. However it now appears reasonably certain that the long-expected power dam will soon be built, and this will mean exceeding prosperity for Concrete and the upper Skagit valley for a number of years at least.