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POWER COMPANY IS GRANTED PERMIT TO RAISE LOCAL DAM

STATE GIVES COMPANY PERMISSION TO ADD THIRTY FEET TO HEIGHT OF PRESENT DAM-TO INCREASE STORAGE

A permit was issued the first of this week to the Puget Sound Power & Light Company by R. K. Tiffany, state supervisor of hydraulics, for the raising of the Baker River dam by 30 feet. The report published is that the permit provides for the starting of the work before June 3, 1926, and final completion before October 15, 1929.

This raise will make the dam 275 feet in height and will raise the waters in Lake Shannon by 30 feet. As every foot of raise now means a much larger area for the water to spread over, the 30 foot raise will mean an increase of water storage capacity of 140,000 acre feet, as compared with the present capacity of about 70,000 acre feet. The estimated cost of the improvement is given as \$100,000, and this expenditure will give the company a water storage of more than double the capacity of the present dam. The purpose of increasing the height of the dam is to make certain that there will be plenty of water to keep the power plant in operation during the months of extreme low water in the Baker River. It is also likely that the local power plant will be doubled in size and capacity within a few years by the installation of two more units, in which case the additional water will be needed during the months of extreme low water in the Baker River. It is also likely that the local power plant will be doubled in size and capacity during the months while the river is at a low stage.

While the permit provides that work must start by June 1 of this year, it is not likely that any considerable work will be done for a year or more. The company already has the material on the ground for the raising of the dam, and it is estimated that the work required can be done in five or six months, so the actual construction will probably not be started until 1928 or 1929. In fact, W. D. Shannon, construction engineer for the company on the Pacific coast, has already stated that no new construction would be done here this year.

According to published reports, the dam after it is raised will be 520 feet long at the top. The overflow from the dam will be handled through 23 spillways, each 10 feet across.