

# THE CONCRETE HERALD

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## Upper Baker Dam On Four Year Program

Another step toward the final announcement of beginning on the construction of the new hydroelectric dam on the upper Baker river came this week with the announcement that Puget Sound Power & Light Co. will file an application on September 1st for a license from the Federal Power Commission to develop the project. They have set their tentative completion date for 1959.

The company has been doing the survey work on the site, about seven miles above Concrete, for the past two years under a temporary permit from the power commission. This work included diamond drilling and exploratory sounding at the dam site itself, and the running of elevation lines completely around the proposed lake that will be backed up when the water is impounded.

The dam will be located on Eaglekrout canyon, just below the Koma Kulshan ranger station on the short piece of the Baker river remaining between Lake Shannon and Baker Lake. Water from the dam will back up into Baker Lake and will completely change the lake by raising the waters approximately 50 feet.

To Borrow \$20,000,000.

The power company has plans for spending some \$79 million dollars in the next four years and as part of their financing program they have entered into a credit agreement with nine state and nine eastern and midwestern banks to borrow up to \$20 million during the next three years. The credit agreement is dated August 1, 1955 and provides for an interest rate of 3% and a commitment fee of % of 1% on the unborrowed balance. Of the \$79 million construction program, about \$42 million will be required for expansion of distribution and transmission facilities. Another \$2 million will be spent for new office and service buildings and the balance—\$35 million, will go for the new power dam on the Baker river.

The new dam and power house will produce an additional 140,000 kilowatts of electric power from the Baker river. The new dam is to provide 85,000 kilowatts and the installation of additional equipment at the present power house here will add another 55,000 kilowatts.

As the company has worked out the details of handling fish runs with the state fisheries dept. no objections are expected from this source. The forest service is also agreeable to specifications. Granting of the temporary permit by the power commission usually makes the issuing of the final permit one of routine.

Unless some unforeseen element enters the picture the town of Concrete and the upper valley should enjoy another construction boom and have a new power installation by 1959.