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RIVER NAVIGATION IS TURNED DOWN

The request of a county group for opening of the Skagit River to navigation as far as Concrete, made at a public hearing in Mount Vernon last April, has been given an unfavorable report by the North Pacific Division of the Corps of Army Engineers.

The study made by the engineers was the feasibility of improving the river for navigation by dredging from deep water in Skagit Bay upstream 54 miles to the Baker river at Concrete. The engineers found that the estimated transportation savings would not be sufficient to warrant expending the amount of money necessary for the project.

The proposal of water transportation was made by the local cement company, which had considered the barging of cement from here to tidewater. Formal proposal of the program came from the Skagit County Development Association and in part, started off the drive which ended with formation of a Port District for the county which encompasses the river.

Subsequent to the report of the engineers, it has been reported that the type of barges that should be used in moving the cement were unsuitable for the river due to the depth of draft required.

The cement company had taken options on river front property on prospect of such a shipping project.