

ISSUED BY
WASHINGTON STATE POWER COMMISSION
414 INSURANCE BUILDING — OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

COMMISSIONERS: THOMAS QUAST, Chairman, Commissioner, Snohomish Co. PUD, Marysville; W. OTTO WARN, Vice-Chairman, Businessman, Spokane; BOB JONES, Secretary, Councilman, City of Seattle; WALTER S. GORDON, Consulting Engineer, Tacoma; F. STUART FOSTER, Attorney, Yakima.
J. FRANK WARD, Managing Director



"... the Commission shall represent the State of Washington and aid and assist the public utilities therein to the end that its water resources and other resources shall be properly developed for the best public interest insofar as they affect electric power..."

SEC. 18, CH. 258, LAWS OF '55

WHAT'S GOING ON IN POWER?

AUGUST 1955

PUBLIC ATTENTION has been focused on the delays attending construction of Tacoma's Cowlitz Power Development in Lewis County. These delays are typical of problems which all non-Federal power projects face. Such delays on this project may increase the hazard of power shortages which are anticipated for 1960 even if the Cowlitz project had progressed as rapidly as possible. Similar delays of other projects may prevent completion in time to alleviate the shortage of 1960 and later.

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EFFORTS OF MANY UTILITIES to contribute individually toward solving the power situation are shown by numerous applications for licenses and preliminary permits for hydro power developments. Largest projects involved are the Priest Rapids Project of Grant County Public Utility District No. 2 on the Columbia River below Vantage, and the John Day Project authorized for Federal construction on the Columbia River above the Dalles.

FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION ACTION on the Priest Rapids Project license application must be completed within a year under federal legislation. Federal appropriations for John Day, if supplemented by a succeeding appropriation for engineering work next year, will bring the planning of this project to the construction stage in 1957 - 58.

THUS, IF THESE CONDITIONS ARE MET these two projects offer the greatest hope for meeting power requirements for 10 years hence, while other projects may be looked to for prior interim requirements.

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OTHER ACTION OF CONGRESS appropriating construction money for Ice Harbor (Lower Snake River near Pasco) provides a safety measure which may contribute to power supply at a time of great need, providing this project proceeds without interference. By nature the project requires supplementing with diverse stream flow or steam generation to produce greatest benefits.

NUMEROUS PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION by local agencies are related to the Columbia River system and its tributaries. The construction of these projects, having the high summer flow characteristic of this river, offers greatest immediate hope of adequate hydro power supply. Ultimate use of summer flows at these same projects, combined with steam, would offer greatest possibility of continuing assurance of power supply.

SHOULD OPPOSITION DELAY any of the projects now being actively pressed, the need for supplemental steam power sources would be accelerated and the date of first construction would be hastened. This supplemental use of steam might be of great advantage to the State however. It would develop the State's tremendous coal resources and would revive the now dormant coal industry giving new sources of continuous employment.

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UTILITIES SERVING EASTERN and CENTRAL parts of the State have projects under consideration in Idaho and Western Washington. These same companies are interested in accelerating construction of the John Day Project. Public utility districts have main river stem projects in Washington under consideration for their own needs, and Puget Sound area agencies are concerned with Canadian storage as well as new developments in Northeastern Washington and in their own area. Recognition of possible need for steam frequently appears in utility comments with regard to individual projects.

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TO ENCOURAGE MOST EFFECTIVE HYDRO DEVELOPMENT and the best use of Columbia River resources, the Washington State Power Commission is preparing a report soon to be released, showing the effect of adding each of numerous proposed projects.

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