
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, Idaho
For Release Wednesday AM, November 23, 1966

Outlook Irrigation District Rehabilitation Contract Signed

A contract between the Outlook Irrigation District, Yakima Project, Washington, and the United States for the rehabilitation and betterment of District facilities has been signed by both the District and the Federal Government, according to Harold T. Nelson, Regional Director of the Bureau of Reclamation in Boise, Idaho.

The contract, with a maximum cost of \$716,000, includes repair and replacement of broken concrete lining in the Outlook pump lateral, replacement of existing metal flumes with pipe siphons, rehabilitation of the existing hydraulic pumping plant, and if needed, the installation of an auxiliary electric pumping plant. In addition, improvements are to be made in the disposal of waste and drainage water from the Roza Division.

The Outlook Irrigation District includes 4,654 irrigable acres located on the Sunnyside Division of the Yakima Project in central Washington. The District receives its irrigation water from the Sunnyside Main Canal, which is operated and maintained by the Sunnyside Board of Control.

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Bureau of Reclamation
For Immediate Release

Boise, Idaho

Reclamation Invites Cooperation in Environmental Planning for Grand Coulee Area in Washington

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today announced a plan by the Bureau of Reclamation to invite interested State, Federal, and local agencies to participate in formulating and carrying out comprehensive environmental planning for the area surrounding Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River in Washington State.

"With construction of the giant Third Powerplant at Grand Coulee we want to make a real showplace out of the surrounding Columbia Basin area," Secretary Udall said. "To this end all concerned agencies are invited to join with the Bureau of Reclamation in preparing a comprehensive master plan for the area that will include developing its scenic and recreation potential on a truly grand scale."

Commissioner of Reclamation Floyd E. Dominy said that Kenneth W. Brooks of Spokane, a member of the American Institute of Architects and winner of many awards for architecture and landscaping designs has been engaged to prepare the environmental plan, while the world-renowned firm of Marcel Breuer and Associates of New York City will design the architectural features of the Third Powerplant itself.

"But Mr. Brooks is not being asked to prepare a plan solely for the Bureau of Reclamation," Commissioner Dominy said. "The comprehensive plan that is needed for the orderly and aesthetic development of the area extends far beyond the boundaries of the Third Powerplant construction site, and it includes considerations and spheres of interest that are beyond the scope of the Reclamation program. The plan we envision must pool the talents, interests, and resources of many agencies and organizations at all levels of government."

Dominy said that the coordinated overall environmental plan encompasses a broad range of items and activities such as zoning, location and sizing of highways, parking areas, public utilities, schools, hospitals, and all other facilities for the use and convenience of the visiting public

as well as future permanent residents of the Grand Coulee area. Of primary importance will be development of the enormous scenic and recreational potential of the area.

"The development of such a comprehensive plan requires the cooperation of all agencies and organizations that have responsibilities and interests in the area," Commissioner Dominy said. "To lay the groundwork for the environmental plan we are inviting all these groups to designate representatives to serve on a broad-based Advisory Council. We would hope the Advisory Council and smaller groups in select phases of development work work closely with Kenneth Brooks and the Bureau of Reclamation in the step-by-step formulation of the master plan."

Invitations to serve on the Advisory Council are being sent to Governor Evans of Washington, and the following Washington State agencies: Highway Department, Game Commission, Department of Water Resources, Department of Commerce and Economic Development, and the Department of Urban Planning. Invitations are also being sent to the counties and cities of the Grand Coulee area: Grant County, Okanogan County, Ferry County, the City of Coulee Dam, City of Grand Coulee, Electric City, Elmer City, and Coulee City, and to the Chamber of Commerce in each local community. The three irrigation districts on the Columbia Basin Project are also being invited to representation on the Advisory Council. Additionally, invitations to serve on the Council are being sent to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Atomic Energy Commission, as well as to the following agencies of the Department of the Interior: National Park Service, Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Water Pollution Control Administration, and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Commissioner Dominy said that Brooks' environmental architectural work, which will be developed with the cooperation of the Advisory Council and the Steering Committee, will also be coordinated with the architectural design work to be performed by Marcel Breuer and Associates of New York City, with whose firm the Bureau of Reclamation announced a contract last month. Breuer's function will involve the treatment to be employed in the architectural design of the new Third Powerplant and its related facilities.

"This represents an historic occasion for the Bureau of Reclamation," said Commissioner Dominy. "For the first time, we have the opportunity to apply the creative talents of environmental and design architects to a major engineering construction project. The result will be a facility not only of sweeping dimensions, but one whose total environment will provide lasting beauty and recreational opportunities for the enjoyment of millions."

The use of architects and planners in developing the Third Powerplant complex was recommended to the Commissioner by the Board of Artistic Consultants, a group of professionals who act in a consulting role for the Bureau.

Dominy said the environmental plan will be implemented in stages as construction of the Third Powerplant permits, and that other elements of the plan will serve as guides for post-construction development.

"Insofar as possible, it will be planned to coincide with the construction phases of the Third Powerplant," the Commissioner explained. "We will have a chronological program for the implementation of each feature proposed by the architect."

The Third Powerplant is a multimillion-dollar complex which represents an extension of the existing Grand Coulee Dam and the addition of a powerplant now authorized for 3.6 million kilowatts. The site has the potential for ultimate expansion to a total generating capacity of 7.2 million kilowatts, which would bring the total capacity of Grand Coulee Dam to 9.2 million kilowatts -- far larger than any powerplant now existing in the world.

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Boise, Idaho
April 4, 1968

Reclamation Bureau Reports on Irrigation Reservoir Storage

"Although streamflow prospects throughout the Pacific Northwest are generally less than normal, current storage in the reservoirs is above normal in most areas, primarily because of storage held over from last year," Regional Director H. T. Nelson, of the Bureau of Reclamation in Boise, Idaho, said today. "The overall outlook for irrigation water for Bureau of Reclamation projects in the Pacific Northwest for this year is generally good. Two areas in Oregon, the Deschutes and Umatilla Basin, could experience some shortage this season, however."

Reports covering 45 reservoirs throughout the Pacific Northwest indicated an aggregate usable storage content of 8,018,000 acre-feet at the end of March. This compares to a total usable capacity of 10,132,000 acre-feet. The normal storage content for this time of year is 6,850,000 acre-feet. The total storage in the reservoirs at the same time one year ago was approximately 6,600,000 acre-feet. Approximately 3,300,000 acre-feet of the present storage supply is storage water held over at the end of the irrigation season last year.

The storage content of six reservoirs on the Upper Snake River in Idaho and Wyoming -- Jackson Lake, Palisades, Island Park, Grassy Lake, American Falls, and Lake Walcott -- was 3,430,000 acre-feet on March 31. At the same time last year the storage in these reservoirs was 2,900,000 acre-feet. The total usable capacity of these reservoirs is 3,985,000 acre-feet. All reservoirs are expected to be filled to capacity later this spring. Normal irrigation water supplies will be available this season, and there should be a substantial storage carryover at the end of the season.

The usable storage content in four reservoirs on the Boise River system in southwestern Idaho -- Anderson Ranch, Arrowrock, Lucky Peak, and Lake Lowell -- was 870,000 acre-feet on March 31. The storage in the reservoirs a year ago was 585,000 acre-feet. The total usable capacity in the four reservoirs is 1,157,000 acre-feet. Streamflow prospects are below normal

and the reservoir system probably will not be filled to capacity this spring. This could lead to an earlier draft of the irrigation water stored in Lucky Peak which could affect recreational use of the reservoir. The total available storage supply in all reservoirs, however, is expected to be adequate to permit near normal irrigation water deliveries this season.

The usable storage in Cascade and Deadwood Reservoirs on the Payette River system in southwestern Idaho on March 31 was 440,000 acre-feet. The total usable capacity of these two reservoirs is 815,000 acre-feet. The storage content one year ago was 197,000 acre-feet. Both reservoirs are expected to fill and normal irrigation supplies are expected to be available.

The usable storage content in Owyhee Reservoir in eastern Oregon was 461,000 acre-feet at the end of March. A year ago the usable storage content was 423,000 acre-feet. The reservoir is not expected to fill, although near normal irrigation deliveries should be possible. Holdover storage at the end of the season is expected to be low.

The total usable storage content in Agency Valley, Bully Creek, and Warm Springs Reservoirs on the Vale Project in eastern Oregon was 175,000 acre-feet at the end of March. The total usable capacity of these reservoirs is 281,000 acre-feet. Usable storage a year ago was 156,000 acre-feet. Although complete filling of these reservoirs appears unlikely, irrigation supplies for this season should be adequate.

On the Crooked River Project in central Oregon, the usable storage in Prineville and Ochoco Reservoirs was 142,000 acre-feet on March 31. This compares with a usable storage content of 157,000 acre-feet last year, and a total usable capacity of 199,000 acre-feet. The expected storage supply should be adequate for near normal irrigation deliveries this season.

The usable storage content of Wickiup Reservoir on the Deschutes Project in central Oregon was 171,000 acre-feet on March 31. The usable storage a year ago was 180,000 acre-feet. The total usable storage capacity in this reservoir is 200,000 acre-feet. This reservoir provides storage water for the North Unit Irrigation District. There is a possibility of late season shortages on the North Unit this season unless weather conditions during the next few months are favorable.

McKay Reservoir on the Umatilla Project in northeastern Oregon had a usable storage content of 34,000 acre-feet at the end of March. This

compares with 39,000 acre-feet storage at this same time last year, and a total usable capacity of 73,800 acre-feet. The present storage content is substantially below normal. Runoff prospects in the area are also much below normal. Irrigation water shortages are likely this season in the area served by McKay Reservoir.

The usable storage content in Howard Prairie, Emigrant, Hyatt Prairie and Agate Reservoirs on the Rogue River Basin Project in southwestern Oregon was 88,000 acre-feet on March 31. This compares with 94,000 acre-feet at the same time last year, and a total usable capacity of 120,000 acre-feet. The present storage supply appears to be adequate to supply all irrigation requirements for this season.

Reservoir storage supplies on the Okanogan Project, in northern Washington, are about the same as those of a year ago. The usable storage content in Conconully and Conconully Lake Reservoirs on March 31 was 16,000 acre-feet. The total usable capacity of the two reservoirs is 23,000 acre-feet. Adequate irrigation supplies are assured for this season. Storage holdover at the end of the season, however, will probably be less than normal.

On the Yakima Project in central Washington, the usable storage content in five reservoirs -- Keechelus, Kachess, Cle Elum, Bumping Lake, and Rimrock -- was 972,000 acre-feet on March 31. The total capacity of the reservoir system is 1,071,000 acre-feet. The total storage content at the same time last year was 760,000 acre-feet. Runoff prospects are substantially below normal, although all reservoirs are expected to fill. Irrigation supplies will be adequate for this season; however, holdover storage at the end of the season will likely be below normal.

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Bureau of Reclamation
Boise, Idaho

For Release
December 26, 1968

Gray Named Reclamation Irrigation Supervisor

Approval of the appointment of Mr. H. R. Gray as Regional Supervisor of Irrigation for Region 1 of the Bureau of Reclamation by Commissioner of Reclamation Floyd E. Dominy was announced today in Boise, Idaho, by Harold T. Nelson, Regional Director of the Bureau. Mr. Gray will move into the position formerly held by Mr. Edgar H. Neal, who recently retired. Since July 1964 Mr. Gray has been the Irrigation and Lands Supervisor on the Columbia Basin Project, Washington, where he directed the operation and maintenance of irrigation facilities serving approximately one-half million acres of land.

As Regional Supervisor of Irrigation, Mr. Gray will be responsible for developing and executing a Region-wide program of development, operation, and maintenance of Federal Reclamation Projects in the Pacific Northwest. He will also be responsible for acquisition and management of lands for Federal Reclamation Projects and the negotiation and administration of repayment contracts with the various water users organizations on these projects. Region 1 of the Bureau of Reclamation encompasses the States of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and the western portions of Montana and Wyoming. Over three million acres of irrigated lands are served by Bureau of Reclamation facilities in the Region.

Mr. Gray began his career with the Bureau of Reclamation in 1934 and held various survey positions until 1943 when he became Assistant Engineer of the Minidoka Project in Idaho. Following this, he worked as an engineer on the Rathdrum Prairie Project in northern Idaho. In October 1946 he transferred to the Columbia Basin Project and in 1950 he was named Resident Engineer at Moses Lake. Subsequently, he was promoted to Assistant Irrigation Supervisor with headquarters in Ephrata, Washington.

In 1959 he was named Assistant Project Superintendent for the Minidoka Project and was promoted to Project Superintendent in 1962 where he worked closely with the water users in the administration of the complex Snake River storage system and in the operation of the Minidoka Project power facilities and irrigation works serving the North Side Pumping Division. In 1964 he returned to the Columbia Basin Project as Irrigation and Lands Supervisor.