

Yakima Chamber of Commerce

[Claims - Settlement]

Chamber of Commerce Building

Yakima, Washington

December 14, 1944

Airmail

Mr. Albert L. Wathen, Chief Engineer
Office of Indian Affairs
U. S. Department of the Interior
Merchandise Mart
Chicago, Illinois

4 to Hal Holmes asking assistance

Dear Mr. Wathen:

The Reclamation Committee of the Yakima Chamber of Commerce recently held a meeting with irrigation leaders from the Yakima Reservation and the Ahtanum Valley concerning the report embracing the possible diversion from the Klickitat River made in January 1940. The meeting was unanimous in its desire that we obtain from you information concerning the status of this project commonly known as the Klickitat Project and whether or not it is included on the list of projects for development immediately following the war. Your Mr. Ersfeld was present at this meeting.

It was our understanding that the Klickitat Project was on the postwar construction list, but we are anxious to determine just what position it holds in that respect. That is, is it a project that can be given immediate consideration or is it so far down the line that its construction would be extended to the distant future? It is also desired that you advise if it would be necessary to obtain further data covered by an additional appropriation by Congress before the project would be placed in the position for plans and specifications for construction work.

Moreover, the 1940 report emphasized the necessity of a power development in connection with the proposed project and mentioned a sale of power at the rate of two and one-half mills per kilowatt hour at the switchboard. At the time of the 1940 report, did your office determine the construction cost per acre for the irrigation of the new land in the Toppenish-Sinco area, and the construction cost per acre for the supplemental supply for the Ahtanum area? Whether or not this was done, our committee is very anxious to know what the construction cost would be without the power development.

had taken action later

The Board of the Chamber has adopted the report of the committee and this meeting and purposes to solicit the support of the Projects Committee of the Washington State Reclamation Association. It has been indicated by

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members of the latter committee that it would desire to offer its cooperation in obtaining favorable action for the construction of the Klickitat Project.

Therefore I shall appreciate your advising me at your very earliest convenience on the matters in which we are interested in connection with this project and such other factors as you deem expedient. We recognize, of course, that the estimates included in the 1940 report do not reflect the increased costs of material and labor currently prevalent, but we do feel that an immediate consideration of all of ~~the~~ ^{these} factors should be undertaken in order that the project, if entirely feasible, shall be placed in position for early development.

Your cooperation in this matter will be genuinely appreciated and with kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

GEO. C. BAER
MANAGER

GCB:GT