

Herb Jenkins
Grant County PUD
March 2, 1964

RELEASE TUESDAY NOON, MARCH 3

EPHRATA --- The Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio, one of the largest research organizations in the nation, has been retained to conduct a feasibility study of the proposed Electric Power Development Center to be built in Grant County at Wanapum dam, E. B. Gibbons, manager of the Public Utility District of Grant County, announced today. Gibbons said Battelle is expected to be assisted in the study by a national consulting firm which will be selected soon. Other preliminary studies are already under way.

Battelle has 2,300 employees at Columbus, Ohio, and 1,000 employees overseas. Last year the United States laboratory alone conducted more than \$28,000,000 in research projects.

The proposed Electric Power Development Center will test high voltage electrical equipment, do research in problems of high voltage transmission and other electrical fields, and will provide facilities for educational institutions to offer additional advanced studies in power engineering to graduate students.

Selection of Battelle to conduct the feasibility study was made at a meeting of 12 members of a steering committee in Seattle on February 26. The committee is headed by Dr. Axel E. Strom of the Grant County PUD, the utility that conceived the idea of an Electric Power Development Center about two and one-half years ago.

(more)

Members of the steering committee who attended the Seattle meeting were Edward York, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; Herbert Strandberg, Seattle City Light; James Conners, Southern California Edison, Los Angeles; Loran E. Eisele, representing George Brunzell of The Washington Water Power Company, Spokane; Larry E. Karrer, Puget Sound Power & Light Co., Seattle; G. E. Heberlein, I. T. E. Circuit Breaker Company, Philadelphia; Leonard J. Linde, Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Co., Milwaukee; Everett Harrington, Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon; Dr. W. A. Lewis, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago; Dr. Eugene Greenfield, Washington State University; E. B. Gibbons, Grant County PUD, and Dr. Strom, chairman, Grant County PUD.

A few members will be added to the committee in the future, but the size of the group will of necessity have to be limited to keep it at a workable size, the chairman said.

Dr. Eugene Greenfield and Dr. A. L. Betts of Washington State University and Dr. W. E. Lewis of the Illinois Institute of Technology, were asked to form an educational committee to study ways in which educational institutions can participate in the activities of the electrical laboratory at Wanapum.

Much preliminary work on the proposed Electric Power Development Center has been done during the two and one-half years it has been under consideration by the Grant County PUD. Officials of the Grant County PUD have personally contacted private and public utilities throughout the nation, electrical manufacturers, consulting engineers and educational institutions. Reception of the idea is reported to be very favorable.

(more)

Last August the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company of Milwaukee, was employed by the Grant County PUD to make a technical study of a high power laboratory for the nation's power industry and to complete preliminary and detail engineering designs of such a laboratory at the Wanapum switchyards. These engineering studies are being managed by Leonard Linde of Allis-Chalmers. He reports that the study has confirmed the value of such a high power laboratory in assisting the power industry in its research and development programs and in determining the characteristics of existing and future high voltage electrical transmission apparatus. Allis-Chalmers will continue its work in this field and will assist the Battelle Institute and the consulting firm in the early phases of planning the new laboratory facilities.

Washington State University has taken an active part in the planning for the facility and will continue to have an important role in all future developments. Members of the power industry also have given assistance in getting the facility under way, Dr. Strom said.

In August of 1963 the Grant County PUD Commissioners, composed of William Schempp, George Schuster, Paul Neihart, Eric Peterson and D. T. Martin, passed enabling resolutions permitting the issuance by the PUD of up to \$15,000,000 in electric power revenue bonds if needed to get the laboratory under way. This was a permissive resolution, not mandatory. At this time the exact method of financing has not been determined or whether the \$15,000,000 bond issue will be required or not.

(more)

Dr. Strom who has been spearheading the proposal to build the Electric Power Development Center, said that preliminary investigations had revealed that there is no high power electrical testing laboratory in the United States that is open to all members of the electrical industry. He said several manufacturers in the United States have high power laboratories which can conduct many of these tests, but they do not make these facilities available to other companies or users of equipment, nor do they have the long lines available such as those out of Wanapum.

"These other manufacturing firms and purchasers of electrical equipment now must have their equipment tested in Great Britain, Holland, France or Italy," Dr. Strom said. Even the best existing testing facilities in Europe or in the United States do not have all the advantages of the Grant County site. American firms who have to test their equipment in Europe have to test it on 50 cycle circuits, instead of the 60 cycle circuits such as used in the U.S., and then have to interpolate the results. Also, the European laboratories cannot provide the long transmission lines necessary to test equipment under actual field conditions.

Commenting on the testing site near Wanapum, Bonneville Power Administrator Charles F. Luce said last July, "The testing facility is being located in the Northwest because of the proximity of large sources of power, long distance high voltage transmission lines, and the heavy equipment adaptable to the kind of testing planned. The location is probably the best in the ^{County.} county."

"The Grant County PUD has taken the lead in this program and deserves a great deal of recognition," Luce said.

(more)

Several electrical engineers have commented that "the Wanapum site represents what is probably the greatest potential concentration of power in the world. "

An equipment test made with existing facilities at Wanapum last July for Allis-Chalmers made use of the Northwest Power Grid.

Allis-Chalmers will conduct another test at Wanapum this summer and the I. T. E. Circuit Breaker Company also will conduct a test.

Dr. Strom emphasized that no great "employment explosion" would result from the start of construction of the Electric Power Development Center. It will be built in increments as the needs of the industry are determined. "Nobody can determine what the future holds," he said. "However, a number of leading men in the power industry predict the Center easily could become a \$50,000,000 facility within ten years. "

Herb Jenkins
Grant County PUD
May 25, 1964

EPHRATA --- The Grant County PUD Commissioners on Monday, May 25, approved the payment to the State of Washington of taxes totaling \$557,606, representing the PUD Privilege Tax for the calendar year of 1963.

The total Privilege tax includes \$71,969, representing a 2 percent tax on the sale of electric energy by the electric distribution system; \$449,253 revenue from Priest Rapids dam for the year 1963 and \$36,384 revenue from Wanapum dam from September 1 to December 31, 1963, E. L. Douglass, auditor for the Grant County PUD, said. The revenue from the two dams represents a 5 percent tax on the gross sale of power from the dams.

The State collects this tax and retains 4 percent, approximately \$22,000, for the State General Fund. The balance is distributed by the State to Grant county and other counties in which the Grant County PUD distributes electric energy, or to counties which border the Priest Rapids and Wanapum Developments.

Distribution of the county payments is discretionary with the county commissioners, but a minimum of 35 percent of the amount they receive must go to the schools.

Douglass estimated the payments to the counties would be approximately \$346,000 to Grant county; \$170,000 to Yakima county; \$17,000 to Kittitas county; \$1,300 to Douglas county; \$23 to Chelan county, and \$15 to Lincoln county.

Herb Jenkins
Grant County PUD
June 28, 1965

*Click: Jack Park said you wanted
a photo of Tour Center, and
sending to other papers later
Herb*

EPHRATA --- Bids will be opened in Ephrata at 2 p. m. on July 30 for a Tour Center and related facilities at Wanapum dam, it was announced Monday at a regular meeting of the Grant County PUD Commissioners.

The Tour Center, which will be approximately 50 feet by 50 feet in size, will be located in the present parking area on the east earth embankment near the Wanapum powerhouse. The building will be of pre-cast concrete panels with basalt rock facing. The only windows will be small panels on one end, the major portion of the walls will be without windows so as to provide a maximum of inside display space. Indian artifacts and handicraft, pictures of primitive life, and other early day mementoes will be displayed.

Visitors will view the dam from a covered balcony extending along one side and one end of the one-story building. The building will be air conditioned.

One principal feature of the building will be a 6-foot by 30-foot mural painted by E. B. Quigley of Portland, depicting navigation on the Columbia River from the earliest Indian canoes and the boats of French fur traders, down through stern wheelers to the latest type of present day boat.

Outside the building will be a pool with a fountain designed and sculptured by Click Relander of Yakima, sculptor, writer and authority on Indian history. The fountain will depict salmon going upstream.

(more)

Parking will be provided for at least 50 cars, and other parking space will be available if needed. There will be no refreshment concessions in the building.

The Tour Center will be opened daily during the summer months, with guides on duty. Tentative plans call for the Tour Center to be open on weekends and holidays during the remainder of the year.

Related facilities are included in the contract for building the Tour Center. One of the other parts of the contract is the installation of air conditioning and the tiling of the floor and walls of the fish viewing room at the end of the powerhouse.

Another part of the contract is the construction of two large signs, one at the main entry to Wanapum and the other at Priest Rapids. The two signs, each featuring an Indian motif, will be constructed of pre-cast concrete panels with basalt rock facing.

Also included in the contract is the building of a View Shelter to be located about half way up the hill on the east side of the river to provide a vista point overlooking the Wanapum Development. Additional landscaping and a picnic area are planned for future development near the Maintenance Center on the road leading into the dam.

The contract calls for completion of the work within 300 days after award of the contract.

Herb Jenkins
Grant County PUD
Aug. 12, 1964

EPHRATA--- On January 17, 1961, the United States and Canada signed an agreement, commonly referred to as "The Canadian Treaty." Formal ratification of the treaty is expected on or prior to October 1, 1964. In the treaty, Canada agrees to build dams and reservoirs in British Columbia on the Columbia River at Mica Creek, Arrow Lakes and on a tributary near Duncan Lake to provide an aggregate of 15.5 million acre-feet of usable storage. Water from these dams will be stored and released so as to provide flood control benefits and increased power production from hydroelectric power plants on the Columbia River in the United States. The treaty specifies that the United States and Canada are each entitled to one-half this increase.

However, in order to finance the building of the dams, Canada is selling her share of this power (called the Canadian Entitlement) to the Columbia Storage Power Exchange (CPSE), a nonprofit, nonstock corporation, organized by the Public Utility Districts of Grant, Chelan and Douglas counties, the three PUDs owning hydroelectric projects on the main stem of the Columbia River. The CSPE will pay for this Canadian share of power by issuance of some \$330,000,000 of 30-year revenue bonds.

(more)

In turn, the CSPE is selling this power to many private and public utilities in the Northwest. Each purchaser will pay his pro rata share of the cost of the principal and interest on the bond issue as payment for his percentage share of the Canadian Entitlement. In other words, if one utility purchases 3 percent of the Canadian share it will pay 3 percent of the cost of retiring the bonds.

Fourteen utility districts, 11 municipalities and 12 cooperatives have purchased 50 percent of the Canadian Entitlement, and four private utilities have purchased the remaining 50 percent.

In order to make this Canadian power more usable to them, the purchasers, through the Columbia Storage Power Exchange, have entered into agreements with the Bonneville Power Administrator in which they traded their Canadian power for an equal amount of power from the Bonneville Power Administration, shaped to meet their needs. The agreements provide that it will be the obligation of BPA to make available to the participants at all times a share of power equal to that share of Canadian power traded to BPA, and will not be affected by any failure of Canada to deliver the expected storage water.

The Bonneville Power Administration has made these agreements to insure the implementation of the treaty and construction of the storage dams, since BPA will receive about 70 percent of the one-half of the power that is to be retained by the United States under the treaty.

(more)

The arranging of the various agreements and contracts has required months of study and negotiation by the participants. One of the most difficult problems was development of an agreement between the Northwest power generating utilities to operate their facilities as a unit so as to obtain optimum flexibility and benefits from all power resources. The problems have been extremely complicated, but final agreements have been reached. The contracts will be put into escrow Thursday, August 13, in Seattle and held until after the bonds have been sold.

The Grant County PUD is purchasing .45 of 1 percent of the Canadian Entitlement. The original offer of Canadian power was over-subscribed, so some of the purchasers agreed to a reduction in their original request.

Herb Jenkins
Grant County PUD
November 24, 1964

EPHRATA --- Cooperation of the Public Utility District of Grant County and the State Game Department has made possible the acquisition of approximately 17,000 acres of land in the Crab Creek area for use by the State Game Department for game production and wildlife management, John Biggs, director of the State Game Department, announced today.

Acquisition of the land became possible Monday, November 23, when Grant County PUD Commissioners granted the State Game Department permission to draw \$118,000 from its allocation from the PUD for game management and wildlife management in the Priest Rapids area to apply on the total purchase price of \$310,000 for the land along Crab Creek. The Game Department is now developing 2100 acres of land in the Priest Rapids area which were conveyed to it by the PUD. A fish and game development program is a part of the requirement of the Federal Power Commission license granted the PUD to build Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams.

Under the terms of the original agreement signed in 1963 between the Grant County PUD and the State Game Department, the PUD agreed to pay the Game Department a total of \$550,000 over a period of 23 years. The PUD would pay up to \$50,000 a year for the first three years and \$20,000 a year each year for 20 years thereafter.

The State Game Department to date has drawn \$32,000 of this amount, and yesterday (Monday) asked permission to draw an additional \$118,000 (which it could draw by July 29, 1965 under the original agreement) for the purchase of the land along Crab Creek.

(more)

Biggs said the 17,000 acres will cost \$310,000, of which the payment from the PUD will amount to \$118,000, with the State Game Department paying \$172,000 from other funds. A lease-back agreement for controlled grazing will pay \$20,000 of the cost. The land includes 8,940 acres of privately owned deeded land and 7,680 acres of state and federally owned land on which private leases must be purchased.

The privately owned land is being purchased from Joe Barker, who also owns most of the leases on the other property. Part of the land is the former Boeh Ranch, Biggs said.

The land comprises a strip 12 miles long along the banks of Crab Creek, extending downstream from Smyrna. The area will be maintained by the State Game Department as a public hunting and fishing area and will provide a substantial addition to the recreational facilities of Grant County, Biggs said. He also said the State Game Department will propose to the State Legislature that the Game Department pay taxes equivalent to those paid under private ownership.

"This agreement with the Grant County PUD represents a real milestone of progress and takes into consideration the interests of hydroelectric power, fish and wildlife interests and those of the public," Biggs said. "It is an example of a perfect marriage between a hydroelectric development and game production. It demonstrates that electrical utilities and Game Departments can work together for the recreational benefit of all the people."

(more)

Biggs said it had been the experience of his department that controlled grazing often benefited wildlife management, for if land is not grazed it often develops into a jungle unsuitable for wildlife. He said an agreement with the former owner, Joe Barker, would allow controlled grazing on the land by 350 head of mature cattle and calves.

The Director also said it was planned to repair some of the former irrigation ditches along Crab Creek and put in earth checks to develop marshy areas for goose nesting and other waterfowl. The main area would be open to public hunting, but some limited areas might have to be closed to provide holding and resting grounds to keep the birds in the area. Unless this is done, Biggs said, heavy hunting results in driving the birds clear out of the entire district.

"This additional 17,000 acres will provide Grant County one of the finest hunting, fishing and recreational areas in the entire nation," Biggs said. "Again, I want to thank the Grant County PUD for its cooperation in making this development possible."

Herb Jenkins
Grant County PUD
May 10, 1965

*Background information
on Red bids*

EPHRATA --- Bids will be opened in Ephrata at 10:00 a. m. on June 11, 1965 for an addition to the Grant County PUD office building in Ephrata. The new structure will connect on the south side of the existing building and will extend 115 feet along C Street and will be 63 feet deep. It will consist of a basement and two stories, with the foundation and other facilities designed so that a third and fourth floor can be added in the future if needed.

The building will be a steel framed structure, and the C Street side exterior will be aluminum, glass and plastic. The exterior on 1st Southwest will have a granite facing over concrete block, with no windows, only vertical and horizontal joint markings.

The front of the existing building will be remodeled to blend with the new structure. The top part of the old building will be faced with ceramic tile. The bottom section, along with that of the new building, will have granite facing.

Plans call for the entrance of the existing building to be remodeled. The present entrance will be closed off and the new main entrance will be through the lobby of the auditorium.

The new addition will house all engineering for the electric distribution system, power engineering and generating plants. It will relieve congestion in the present office building and allow for arranging of future space as needed. The second floor will be occupied by a dispatching office and computer center with associated offices.

(more)

The high level lighting in the offices will be sufficient to supply most of the heating requirements except in extreme weather conditions, when additional electric heat will be supplied. A heat pump will supply year-around air conditioning and remove the heat from the lights during summer months.

Glass in the windows will be a high reflective type that will reflect up to 70% of the solar heat striking the windows, which will help to reduce the air conditioning load.

Cowan-Paddock and Hollingbery of Yakima and Moses Lake are the architects for the building.

The construction contracts call for completion early in 1966

---30---

Herb Jenkins
Grant County PUD
July 27, 1965

EPHRATA---In a one-hour maximum capability test on July 27, Wanapum dam produced 986,000 kilowatts, or 118.6% of its design (nameplate) rating of 831,250 kilowatts, E. B. Gibbons, manager of the Grant County PUD, announced today. This is equal to 1,322,000 horsepower.

Both Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams are capable of producing electric power well above their design ratings. During a similar test of Priest Rapids on October 30, 1961, the plant produced 912,000 kilowatts, which is 115.7% of its design rating of 788,500 kilowatts. The 912,000 kilowatts is equal to 1,223,000 horsepower.

Gibbons said the total generating capacity owned by the Public Utility District of Grant County is 1,898,000 kilowatts, or 2,545,000 horsepower. Wanapum and Priest Rapids each has ten generating units installed, and each is designed so that six additional generators can be installed at such time as more generating capacity is required.

---30---

Herb Jenkins
Grant County PUD

[1966?]

ROYAL SLOPE ----"We are going all out to give the Milwaukee Road a welcome it will remember," Mayor Sam Poarch of Royal City said today. The Mayor was discussing plans for a big celebration which will be held in Royal City on June 10 to celebrate the completion of the Milwaukee Road's 6-1/2 mile spur from its main line to Royal City.

Curtiss E. Crippin, president of the Milwaukee Road, and other railroad officials and city officials of the area will arrive at Royal City at about 10 o'clock from Othello on a special train. A golden spike ceremony will be held with Crippin, Senator Warren G. Magnuson, and Dale Smith, president of the Western Farmers Association, as the speakers. Other federal and state officials have been invited to be present and take a part in the program.

A free barbecue will be held after the golden spike ceremony. George Daugherty, county director of Civil Defense, is in charge of the barbecue.

Following the barbecue there will be a reception at the Titan Cafe for distinguished guests.

A dance is planned for that evening by the Royal Slope Chamber of Commerce.

(more)

The 6-1/2 mile spur line is the longest piece of trackage built by the Milwaukee since 1910. Costing more than \$1,000,000, the road climbs up Red Rock Canyon in a spectacular series of curves on a grade of 2.5 percent. At Royal City a long sidetrack serves the industrial area that has been set aside for processing plants, warehouses and other future patrons of the railroad.

The spur was built to serve the Royal Slope area of approximately 90,000 irrigable acres in the south part of Grant County. More than 60,000 irrigated acres last year produced 356,399 tons of crops valued at \$10,913,826. The area is growing fast, and the farm population has increased from 690 persons in 1962 to 1,121 in 1966. Harvested acres increased from 31,150 to more than 60,000 acres during the same period.

Royal City's population has grown from a bare townsite laid out in 1956 to 568 persons today.

Mayor Sam Poarch says the population of Royal City would increase even faster if housing was available. Mayor Poarch said "We are turning away people every day because we don't have housing for them. We have pending with the Farmers Home Administration in Washington, D. C. an application for 48 units for migrant labor." The Mayor went on to say that even though some private construction was under way there still were no rental units available.