

Orr Affidavit

Exhibit 74

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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Letter from Watermaster Lynn Crandall to
E.V. Berg, Idaho State Commissioner of
Reclamation
(Sept. 25, 1941)

301. PALISADES DAM

When water flows out of year covered in water and the amount of water that can be stored in the reservoir is not sufficient to meet the needs of the Snake River Basin.

The Bureau of Reclamation, Idaho Falls, Idaho
Sept. 25, 1941

Snake River Basin

Page	
Bashore	
Cheadle	
Sanford	
Kubach	
Waine	
Golze	
McCullash	

Mr. E. V. Berg,
Commissioner of Reclamation
Boise, Idaho

Dear Mr. Berg:-

Replying to yours of the 24th inst. relative to water supply for the Palisade Reservoir:-

It is generally conceded that the winter diversion of water on Snake River is a wasteful practice that should, as a matter of public policy, be discontinued. I think the Bureau of Reclamation feels that the construction of the Palisade Reservoir and the ultimate disposal of the American Falls lease water is the last means by which it can exert any pressure on the Snake River Canals to cease the winter diversion of water. Accordingly the Bureau has adopted the requirement that all companies purchasing space in the Palisade Reservoir will have to agree to cease winter water diversions within 5 years from the date that construction starts on the dam. I think the Bureau will make the same requirement in connection with the permanent disposal of the present leased space in American Falls Reservoir. In an arid region where development is limited by water supply no impartial observer can quarrel with these requirements.

The need for stored water by the Twin Falls North Side Project is sufficiently great that, on a showdown, it would probably be obliged to cease winter water diversions rather than lose the stored water now being rented under the American Falls lease. There is an ample supply of domestic water of good quality underneath that tract and the only problem is one of the cost of drilling wells. It has been estimated that it would cost about \$1,000,000 to provide wells for all farms on the North Side Project that are not now equipped with them. The Farm Security Administration is loaning money to needy farmers to drill wells and there is no more real need to run winter water on the Twin Falls North Side Project than on the Big Wood River Project, for example.

On the Twin Falls South Side Project, however, the situation is different. The ground water there is generally of poor quality, several towns use the canal water for domestic supply and the Canal Company's need of its lease water is not great enough to compel it to give up its winter water use in order to continue to receive the amount of stored water represented by its existing lease.

Mr. Page suggested several years ago that it might be possible to build a pipe line from Milner or Murtaugh Lake to carry domestic water over the tract as has been done on the Deschutes Project in Oregon. It seems to me that it might be desirable for the Bureau to make an estimate of the cost of such a project and see if enough interest could be aroused among the South Side Twin Falls residents to stand part of the cost of such a distribution system.

The average water supply available for the proposed Palisades Reservoir depends on what period of years is taken in making the computations. Stream flow records are available for 50 years since 1890. The only period during this 50 year record

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when more than one dry year occurred in succession was from 1931 to 1935, incl. and the amount of water that can be stored in the future depends largely on how often a recurrence of similar years to 1931-35 can be expected.

The Bureau of Reclamation has taken the period of 22 years from 1918 to 1939 and by assuming certain increases in existing diversions, including full use each year of all its available storage by the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District, has computed that the average annual yield of the proposed Palisade Reservoir under existing conditions of winter use will be 125,000 acre feet for a series of years such as 1918 to 1939. If the 1931-35 period were left out the yield would be greater, or if the years prior to 1918 were included it would also be greater.

It is my opinion that in practice the reservoir will do better than this because with individual credits possible in the reservoir the companies will reduce their present unnecessary use appreciably, and because the experience of the Fremont Madison District during the past 3 years demonstrates that in ordinary years it will not exhaust its present storage supply. There is a common feeling among the companies now that they might as well use the water as to have it go to someone else or spill down the river. If space was available in which the water could be saved I think there would be substantial reductions in early and late season use. From upper valley canals that have agreed to eliminate winter water diversions if Palisade reservoir is built an annual increase in storable run-off of 75,000 acre feet can be expected. The Twin Falls North Side Project also diverts about 125,000 acre feet each winter which can probably be eliminated.

Assuming that the Bureau of Reclamation adheres to its policy of compelling purchasers of Palisade space or Am. Falls lease space to cease winter water diversions within 5 years I feel that an average annual yield of 250,000 acre ft. can conservatively be expected from the new reservoir without regard to any water that might become available from cessation of winter use on the Twin Falls South Side Project. I think it is highly desirable that some plan be worked out, if possible, to do away with winter water on that tract but the Palisade Reservoir is quite feasible, in my opinion, even if that cannot be accomplished. The Canal Cos. who have subscribed for space are willing to take their chances on the yield as in most cases it is for supplemental and insurance water and is feasible for this purpose where more question might arise if it was their only water right. Assuming that the average annual yield of Palisade Reservoir is 250,000 acre feet, the Canal Companies who will subscribe for the space will get 90% of their average diversions from other sources. They have lived thru the past dry years without the Reservoir and they are confident that if the space can be procured at reasonable cost it will be well worth while to them, even if they only fill it occasionally and then hold it for the dry years.

In connection with the development of the Palisade Reservoir Project the Bureau of Reclamation will have to make some permanent disposition of its lease space at American Falls, as the Canal companies will need to know what is going to happen to their present lease space before they can definitely determine how new reservoir space they will require. If the Gov't. offers the leased space for sale it will be besieged with requests aggregating 5 times as much space as is available, and more or less ill feeling will result from the allocation to the favored companies. On this account it has been suggested that the leased space (433,593 acre feet) be combined with the Palisade Reservoir space (1,300,000 acre feet) and sold in combination. If this is done the anticapt

yield, assuming winter use still continues on the Twin Falls South Side tract, would be as follows,-

Palisade Reservoir, 1,390,000 ac. ft of space, annual yield	250,000 ac.ft.
Am.Falls lease 433,593 "	" " " 368,000 "
Total yield	618,000 "

The total yield would be 35.7% of the combined space and we have recommended to purchasers of space that they buy an amount of space equal to 3 times their annual requirements. The applications for space already made have been on this basis.

Assuming that the irrigation cost of 1,390,000 acre feet of space in Palisade Reservoir will be \$7,794,000 as set out in the estimate by the Bureau of Reclamation and that the American Fallsn leased space of 433,593 ac.ft. will be sold at cost of \$4.50 per acre ft., the total combined irrigation cost would amount to about \$5.65 per acre ft. of space or abou \$17 per acre ft. of average annual yield. I think the Bureau should be willing to figure the American Falls space in at cost as it has been collecting rent on it for 11 years at an annual rate equal to what the payments would have been under the terms of the Reclamation Act.

While the amount of water actually consumed by persons or livestock during the winter months under the Twin Falls North and South Side Canals is not over 2% of the amount diverted, the canal operators say that they have to keep water spilling at the end of each canal and lateral otherwise they will freeze dry during cold snaps, the ice fall in the ditch and they cannot get the water thru again until spring. This point has been discussed with them for years without accomplishing anything of value, hence I do not feel that there is any likelihood of getting the quantities reduced except by shutting the canals dry

Yours truly,
Lynn Crandall.

Watermaster

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