We recommend that the bill be enacted as amended herein.

The Oahe unit was authorized by the Flood Control Acts of 1944 (58 Stat. 887) and 1946 (60 Stat. 641). The general comprehensive plan for the Missouri River Basin project was presented in Senate Document 191 and House Document 475 (78th Congress) as revised and coordinated by Senate Document 247 (78th Congress). The Secretary's subsequent planning report on the initial stage of the unit was prepared pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 442, 88th Congress, which requires reauthorization by the Congress of any units of the Missouri River Basin project on which construction was not underway as of August 14, 1964. Authority to engage in the feasibility investigations of the Oahe unit was provided by the Act of September 7, 1966 (80 Stat. 707).

The initial stage of the Oahe unit would be a multipurpose water and related land resources development providing an irrigation water supply to 190,000 acres of land and municipal and industrial water supplies to 17 towns and cities in and near the unit. It would also provide for flood control, outdoor recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife conservation and development. Benefits would accrue to area redevelpment from construction of the unit as well as from the operation and maintenance activities that would follow.

Principal supply works of the unit will consist of the Oahe and James pumping plants, a system of main canals, the three regulating reservoirs formed by the proposed Blunt, Cresbard, and Byron Dams, the existing James Diversion Dam, and channel improvements on the James River. These facilities would be supplemented by distribution canals, laterals, and pumping plants to deliver water to the land, and the necessary drainage facilities. Pumping power would be obtained from the Missouri River Basin Power System.

The 190,000 acres of new land proposed for irrigation development in the initial stage lie in the Lake Plain area adjacent to the James River in Brown and Spink Counties in northeastern South Dakota. Irrigation in the area has been extremely limited because of inadequate surface water supplies during the growing season and the limited groundwater supply. Rainfall is neither timely nor adequate to realize the agricultural potential that the lands would have with a full water supply. The provision of a dependable water supply for irrigation would remove the present high risk associated with dryland farming, improve the agricultural base, and stimulate and stabilize the overall economy of the area to the benefit of the State and the Nation. The present heavy reliance upon small grain farming would, with irrigation, be shifted largely to the production of more diverse crops associated with livestock production and to the production of cash crops such as beets.

Water supply for the unit would be obtained primarily from the Missouri River by diverting water from the existing Oahe Reservoir through the Oahe pumping plant. The total water requirement for the initial stage of the Oahe unit will average 563,900 acre-feet annually. Diversion from Oahe Reservoir would supply about 72 percent of this amount, or 408,400 acre-feet; 104,800 acre-feet would be obtained from return flows carried by the James River in the Lake Plain area; and the remaining 50,700 acre-feet would be obtained from natural flows of the James River.

Subsequent further studies made of the plan presented in the planning report indicate that investments required to enhance commercial power production at the existing Oahe powerplant would be infeasible. Therefore, the report has been modified to eliminate the power enhancement function and the benefits attributable to this purpose and to reduce the cost estimates of the unit by the amount that would have been needed to include that function. Subsequent consideration of the plan also led to the decision not to include the additional capacity which was proposed in some of the principal supply works for ultimate development of the unit. This also reduced the cost estimate originally presented in the planning report.

The total project and assigned cost for the initial stage of the Oahe unit as shown in the original report was reduced from $246,230,000 to $234,038,000 (January 1964 prices) for this modified plan. A comparison of the allocation of such