

acres to 445,000 acres. This shift in the availability of land in South Dakota is what requires the reauthorization that we are considering this morning, Senate bill 6.

The lands in the James River area are now called the Lake Plain. An area with loess soils suitable for sustained irrigation located near the route of the unit facilities in the vicinity of Oahe Reservoir, was included in the plans for the unit. This area totals about 50,000 acres and is referred to as the Missouri slope. The total area now identified for ultimate development is 495,000 acres.

The Oahe conservancy subdistrict is the principal, responsible local sponsor of the Oahe unit. The subdistrict includes a 15½ county area in north-central South Dakota and was established under provisions of South Dakota State Law at the general election in November 1960. Eighty-five percent of the votes in the 1960 general election supported the creation of the district.

The district promotes water resources development and conservation. The subdivision has taxation authority up to one-tenth of a mill on the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the subdistrict prior to execution of a repayment contract and up to 1 mill after execution of a repayment contract. The electorate granted contractual authority to the subdistrict board of directors at the general election in November 1966.

During the summer of 1964, local interests initiated steps toward formation of irrigation districts in the Lake Plain Area in Spink County and in Brown County to the west of the James River.

In December 1964, the Oahe Conservancy Subdistrict Board of Directors formally asked the Bureau of Reclamation to complete a report on the potential for development of 495,000 irrigable acres and other functions of the multipurpose Oahe unit, and they also asked that we prepare a supplemental report for 190,000 irrigable acres as an initial stage of the ultimate plan. The 190,000 acres we are talking about are identified on the wall map in yellow and lands that will be considered in future stages are shown in brown, making a total of 495,000 acres.

Consistent with the request of the local sponsors, we present for your consideration the initial stage of the proposed Oahe unit which includes development of 190,000 acres of irrigable land, a municipal-industrial water supply for 17 municipalities, five recreation areas, 18 fish and wildlife areas, flood control through the unit area along the James River, and area redevelopment benefits resulting from construction of the unit and from operation and maintenance activities that would follow.

Water for the Oahe unit will be diverted from existing Lake Oahe, on the Missouri River, by the proposed Oahe pumping plant into the Pierre Canal. The average pump lift will be 122 feet.

From this point, water will flow by gravity through a system of main canals and two regulating reservoirs to irrigable lands lying west of the James River.

Land lying east of the James River will be supplied water during the initial stage by releases from the West Lake Plain canal system into the James River and rediverted, together with irrigation return flows and floodflows into Byron Reservoir, by means of a pumping plant located at the existing James Diversion Dam.