

Our first witness is Mr. John M. Nelson, superintendent of the department of lighting, city of Seattle, Wash. I believe Mr. Nelson has probably come farther than any other witness.

Mr. NELSON. Thank you, sir.

Mr. TAYLOR. I might say this is a good day to have these hearings if it continues to rain.

STATEMENT OF JOHN M. NELSON, SUPERINTENDENT, DEPARTMENT OF LIGHTING, CITY OF SEATTLE, WASH.; ACCOMPANIED BY ROBERT L. McCARTY, ATTORNEY, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. NELSON. This is Mr. McCarty, an attorney in Washington.

Mr. Chairman, I have a statement I am sure will not take more than the time allotted, and I will proceed, with your pleasure, sir.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, my name is John M. Nelson. I am Superintendent of the City of Seattle, Department of Lighting, a municipally owned utility serving over 700,000 customers in the metropolitan area of Seattle. My office is in the City Light Building, 1015 Third Avenue, Seattle, Wash., 98104.

The city of Seattle Department of Lighting feels that the wild rivers bill places restrictions on the development of the proposed Copper Creek project that will adversely affect our long-range plans for the total development on the Skagit River and is inconsistent with S. 1821, which is the North Cascades Park bill.

On December 21, 1918, Seattle City Light received a license from the Department of Agriculture allowing us to develop the Skagit River. In the years that have followed we have developed the following three facilities of the proposed four facilities on the main stem of the Skagit River:

(1) Ross Dam and Reservoir, which is the farthest upstream on the river and consists of a dam which is 625 feet high and a lake 22 miles long which extends into Canada; (2) Diablo development, which consists of a dam 389 feet high with a lake 4 miles long; (3) Gorge Dam, which is 300 feet high with a lake 4 miles long.

The proposed Copper Creek development is located on the Skagit River about 9 miles downstream from the Gorge plants, which is located at the town of Newhalem. The area through which the Skagit River flows at this point consists of land covered in the most part by second-growth timber and bushy alder. The land shown in white bordering the river in this stretch is non-Federal land, much of which is owned by City Light. This refers to the map which is attached to the statement.¹

The plant would serve a dual purpose in that it will provide storage capacity necessary for the reregulation of the discharge from the upstream plants, resulting in a very uniform flow plus giving us the output of the proposed Copper Creek plant which would have an installed capacity of approximately 80,000 kilowatts.

Reregulation of the Skagit River will become necessary as the demands on hydrogeneration for peaking purposes increase in order that the variations in the river stages be held to a minimum down-

¹ Map was placed in committee file.