

Local interests desire improvements to reduce the turbidity of the lake so that its recreational value can be restored.

The Chief of Engineers recommends construction of a pumping plant—capacity of 6,500 cubic feet per second—and gravity drainage structure in the vicinity of Macon Lake to divert floodflows presently entering Lake Chicot and two gated dams to regulate the level of the lake.

The total estimated cost is \$15,480,000 of which \$15,240,000 is Federal and \$240,000 is non-Federal. The annual charges are estimated to be \$712,000 and the annual benefits are \$720,000. The benefit-cost ratio is 1.1.

Local cooperation requirements as recommended in the report by the reporting officer and as recommended by the Chief of Engineers are to administer, operate, and maintain the recreation facilities and insure that they are open to all on equal terms; provide all lands required for specific recreation facilities and make such additional contributions as necessary to bring the local interest contribution to at least 50 percent of all project costs charged to recreation, with the stipulation that local interest may pay this cost, except for lands, over a period of 50 years at the interest rate prevailing at the initiation of construction; perform minor maintenance, and operate the gates on control structures. Local interests have indicated their willingness to furnish the assurances.

The States of Arkansas and Louisiana and concerned Federal agencies have commented favorably.

The Bureau of the Budget does not believe that full Federal responsibility for the damages has been clearly established, but that damages are the result of cumulative adverse effects from any Federal and non-Federal improvements.

Therefore, the Bureau believes that requirements of local cooperation should be amended to provide that local interests will operate and maintain—including major replacements—after construction; and hold and save free from damages.

The Bureau also believes no additional improvements should be made at Federal expense for mitigation of damages caused by silt-laden flows into Lake Chicot. Subject to the foregoing changes in requirements of local cooperation, the Bureau of the Budget has no objection to submission of the report to Congress.

Mr. JOHNSON. Colonel, what does this mean here, the statement no additional improvements should be made at Federal expense in connection with the mitigation of damages caused by silt in Lake Chicot?

Colonel HALL. Sir, the Bureau of the Budget does not feel that any future work beyond that recommended in this report should be undertaken to mitigate further silt-laden flows into Lake Chicot in the event they occur.

In other words, they do not object to the submission, that is, the submission of the report under conditions, subject to these changes in requirements of the local cooperation.

Mr. JOHNSON. Any damages caused by the silt should be an obligation of the local interests.

Colonel HALL. Any future damage caused by future silt should be an obligation of the local interests, is the Bureau of the Budget's view.