

age structure, and two dams with structures (one each in Connerly and Ditch Bayous). The purpose of these recommended facilities is to divert flood flows presently entering Lake Chicot, restore the lake to its former clear and stable condition, and continue to provide basic water supplies downstream from the lake into Louisiana. The plan will also increase the degree of flood protection downstream from Lake Chicot along Bayou Macon.

It is necessary that a minimum flow of 50 cubic feet per second be maintained from Lake Chicot through the dam and control structure in Ditch Bayou. These releases would be delivered into Bayou Macon and through Northeast Louisiana. This water is presently being used for irrigation of agricultural crops, principally rice, and other uses. Also, the Town of Delhi, Louisiana, uses Bayou Macon as the source of its present municipal water supply. A minimum flow of 50 cfs must be maintained to continue to supply present users of water from Bayou Macon.

Since about 1927 it has been the observation of state officials from both Arkansas and Louisiana and levee board commissioners in Southeast Arkansas and Louisiana that Lake Chicot from year to year could not recover from the extreme inflow of turbid, silt laden flood waters which were being delivered into the lake by increasing amounts in each successive year. As the development of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project has advanced for flood control, and the Boeuf and Tensas Rivers were improved to relieve intercepted drainage, Chicot Lake has continued its deterioration to the extreme condition that it is no longer attractive or useful for recreation and has lost its fishing productivity.

The officials of Arkansas and Louisiana, local citizens of the two-state area, the Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers, the Mississippi River Commission, and the Chief of Engineers, all concur that the best and most feasible means of restoring Chicot Lake to serve present and future needs is the project which has already been described. Further, these states, federal agencies and local interests unanimously agree that operation and maintenance of the pumping plant and control structures should be a federal responsibility. Of necessity, the plan of operation for Lake Chicot is highly complicated. Included is the operation of a major pumping plant to control stages and storage in Lake Chicot within such a range that will provide adequate water levels and volume to support area needs without flooding and a continuous minimum release of 50 cubic feet per second down Bayou Macon for various stage and head conditions. Also, this project involves the interests of two states, Arkansas and Louisiana.

The Corps of Engineers has experienced staffs and trained technicians who are capable of successfully carrying out a complicated arrangement for operation and maintenance of major structures and pumping plant equipment. These type of personnel are not available through the local governing bodies.

Several major pumping plants are already included in the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project. Congress has seen fit in authorization of these projects to provide that operation and maintenance is a federal responsibility. We believe that operation and maintenance of the Lake Chicot pumping plant and control structures should also be a federal responsibility.

Recommendation

On behalf of the Governor of Louisiana, Honorable John J. McKeithen, and acting for local interests in Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Public Works recommends that the project, *Lake Chicot, Arkansas*, be authorized and incorporated as a revision to the existing project, Mississippi River and Tributaries, authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1928, as amended, provided that the project provides for operation to maintain a minimum flow of 50 cubic feet per second in Bayou Macon. This is in accordance with our letter of September 12, 1966, to the Chief of Engineers presenting our comments on the report.

It is also recommended that the pumping plant and dams with control structures be operated and maintained by the federal government in conformity with the established policy of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project.

Mr. JOHNSON. Now, Mr. Chairman, I will turn the chair back to you.

Mr. JONES (presiding). I appreciate your chairing this committee for me. I had to be at another committee meeting.

The next project is the St. Francis Basin, Ark. and Mo.