

I am speaking for myself as a resident of Rappahannock County, a resident of Virginia and a citizen of the United States. During my adult years, I have had 12 years field service connected directly with flood control projects including a 4 year assignment in the Mississippi Valley and a 3 year position as an elected supervisor of the Culpeper Soil Conservation District.

I have carefully studied the Review Report on the Salem Church Reservoir submitted by the Norfolk District, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army.

I give it as my opinion that this is a very thorough, straightforward report, made in compliance with the many laws of the U.S. governing such matters, and with a most complete coordination with other U.S. Government agencies, as required by law and good judgment; and well coordinated with the agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia dealing with the matters studies in arriving at the final report. This report covers all the main studies required for a project of this type including water supply, salinity control, flood control, water quality control, recreation and hydroelectric power, and it also reports on the studies made of alternate means by which desired results might have been accomplished, but which for good reasons were not adopted.

I recommend its approval.

I have noticed in my life that projects like this always have proponents and opponents. Many arguments are based on what I call emotions, many are on good ground, but there are also many which are not in accord with the facts. This project has the usual "in fighting." And of course there is the often heard cry of "Politics".

Be those things as they are, I have studied the needs of this area now, and the needs for the future, and submit these specific conclusions:

a. As for Rappahannock County, where I reside, it has nothing to lose, and much to gain—a sure supply of electricity for its REA; under certain circumstances a possible excellent water supply, and the additional income from travelers using U.S. 211 and 522 to reach the reservoir, just to name a few of the benefits.

b. The City of Fredericksburg and the surrounding counties face a very large increase in population. They have present problems: Flood threats, future water supply and power requirements, water quality control, salinity control and future recreation area needs. All of these items are in the forefront of our national requirements and various agencies are working hard to meet the future needs.

c. Local interests will have to pay their share of basic first costs and maintenance costs in accordance with well established Federal Laws and policies.

d. The nearby areas such as Chesapeake Bay have limited adjoining recreational areas now open to the public, and many places are polluted.

e. Some parts of the basin will be hurt by taking their land (at fair compensation). I am personally experienced in that trouble. I have been a U.S. agent who had to fall back on the law of eminent domain. I have also had to transfer land I personally owned; and will again soon, give land for a highway (with due compensation). But, where the large majority of the residents are in need of provision for their protection and for future requirements they must be given precedence over the relatively few who will be hurt.

f. This project has been recommended for approval by the Governor of Virginia and other agencies of the State who have worked on it. It has the strong support of an overwhelming percentage of the population affected and their governing bodies. The benefits to the state are vital needs and will remove or lessen many of the disasters heretofore suffered.

g. This construction will remove the threat to life and property of important areas heavily populated, it will insure a badly needed future water supply for an expanding population and will provide other needs of a vast majority of the inhabitants. Their needs must be given priority under the circumstances over the disadvantages that might accrue to a small minority.

In conclusion, this is a very worthy project and I recommend its early construction.

Next Mr. Chairman, I have a letter from J. W. Ferguson, president of the J. W. Ferguson Seafood Co., Inc., of Remick, Va., dated June 17, 1968, addressed to you, Mr. Chairman, which reads as follows:

Speaking for myself and my corporation, we wholeheartedly support the Salem Church Reservoir project. We believe this reservoir will greatly reduce the danger from flash flooding to marine resources, especially oysters.