

propagation of fish and wildlife, as well as the enhancement of the health and environment of the communities in the Basin. Solutions that will indeed provide sufficient water for municipal and industrial uses. Solutions that are imaginative and constructive.

Despite our disagreements with the Corps' program as the subject of this hearing today, we would urge them profoundly to direct their attention to alternatives that we do not believe they have considered seriously. It would be our thought that if they would do this, perhaps they could achieve significant breakthroughs in planning complex river basins.

Mr. JONES. Now we are going to go into the Wabash River and tributaries of Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. Colonel Anderson, you may proceed.

WABASH RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES, INDIANA, ILLINOIS, AND OHIO

Colonel ANDERSON. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, this report is submitted in partial response to a resolution of the Committee on Public Works of the U.S. Senate adopted May 6, 1958. The Wabash River Basin has a drainage area of about 33,000 square miles of which 24,000 is in central Indiana, 8,600 in eastern Illinois, and 300 in western Ohio. Overall length of the Wabash River is 475 miles to its confluence with the Ohio River.

The Wabash Basin has experienced flooding almost every year and sometimes several times a year. Because of this, the basin has many low levees built by private interests to protect agricultural areas. These are generally inadequate and at best provide only partial protection. The problems of flood control, water quality, water supply, and recreation on the Little Wabash and Skillet Fork Rivers, Ill., and Big Walnut Creek, Big Blue River, and Flatrock River, Ind., are among the most urgent of remaining water problems in the Wabash Basin at present. Local interests desire water resources improvements to meet present and future needs of these areas.

The Chief of Engineers recommends further improvements of Wabash River Basin by construction of Louisville, Helm, and Big Blue Dams and Reservoirs, for flood control, water supply, water quality control, general recreation, and fish and wildlife enhancement; and Downeyville Dam and Reservoir for all of these purposes except water quality control and by construction of local flood protection at Marion, Ind.

The estimated total cost of the construction is \$116,060,000 of which the Federal cost \$115,740,000 subject to certain items of local cooperation. The benefit cost ratio is 1.8.

Local interests are willing to provide the usual items of local cooperation, including reimbursement of \$24,048,000 under provisions of the Water Supply Act of 1958 and reimbursement of \$16,147,000 under the Federal Water Project Recreation Act. The net Federal construction costs are thus \$75,545,000.

Comments of the States of Indiana and Illinois and Federal agencies are generally favorable. However, the Secretary of Interior recently issued a press statement that he concurred in a recommendation made by the Advisory Board on national parks, historic sites, buildings, and monuments that the Big Walnut area be declared eligible for registration as a natural landmark and expressed objection to authorization of the Big Walnut Reservoir or any project that would invade this area.