

by a by-pass channel or dikes were found objectionable or unattractive. The alternatives would result in loss of storage capacity, high costs, or other disadvantages such as extensive highway and railroad relocations and river crossings.

Full consideration has been given to the views of interested parties, both proponents and opponents, the supplemental report of the District Engineer and the report of the advisory committee. Based on the special additional studies of means to preserve ecological values, the Chief of Engineers revised his proposed report to recommend authorization of the Big Walnut reservoir project generally as recommended by the reporting officers but with additional land acquisition, a nature center and other educational and scientific facilities at an estimated additional cost of \$500,000 for construction and \$17,000 annual operation and maintenance. The State of Indiana concurs in this recommendation. These special features would be administered by the State or under the State's supervision in order to preserve in so far as practicable, the ecological values in the area, guarantee their future against destruction and provide for appropriately limited public use of the area. Preservation of such natural values, including acquisition of additional land would be a specific objective of the proposed Big Walnut reservoir project. The modified plan of development will therefore also fulfill the broader objective of conservation education by offering visiting students, teachers and the general public a natural laboratory area. The Governor of Indiana has approved the modified plan.

APRIL 11, 1968.

Lt. Gen. WILLIAM F. CASSIDY,
*Chief of Engineers,
Department of the Army,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR GENERAL CASSIDY: I have received a letter from one of my constituents, expressing concern over a Corps proposal to locate a dam in Big Walnut Valley, Indiana. I gather that considerable concern has been expressed that the dam, if placed where planned, may not be in the best location, considering the total effects of the project.

I would appreciate being fully informed by your office on the investigations that have been done on the proposal to date, together with a report on the extent and nature of investigations made on alternative sites. I would also like to know what consideration was given and values assigned in your proposal to the value of preserving the Big Walnut Valley site in its existing natural condition.

Your prompt response to this inquiry will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

RICHARD L. OTTINGER,
Member of Congress.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM J. HULL, CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE,
OHIO VALLEY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is William J. Hull. I reside in Washington, D.C. I am Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Ohio Valley Improvement Association, Inc., a non-profit corporation of the State of Ohio with its principal office at 4017 Carew Tower, Cincinnati, Ohio. The Association, founded in 1895, is dedicated to sound water resource development in the Ohio River Basin. Its membership includes agricultural groups and industries such as coal, oil, steel, aluminum, chemicals, and electric power, as well as shippers, financial institutions, river operators, merchants, civic groups and individual citizens who support its work and program.

We welcome this opportunity to recommend the following projects for authorization:

- (1) WABASH VALLEY, ILL. AND IND.

Big Blue Reservoir, Ind.

The proposed project is located on Big Blue River, a tributary of the East Fork of the White River in Rush and Hancock Counties, Indiana. The project consists of a gated concrete overflow section with earth embankments on both sides. The reservoir will have a total storage capacity of 120,100 acre-feet which