

agency, a creature of the State of South Carolina, providing a vital service to the farmers and small communities in a large area of South Carolina. I do not think we want to try to cripple this agency. And I do not see how we can fairly ask the Authority to cooperate in early implementation, if at the end of the road there is only a threat of confiscation of the benefits of its Pinopolis plant. If the Bureau of the Budget's recommendation were to prevail, nothing would be accomplished, nothing would be solved, no solution to the Charleston Harbor silting problem would be possible, and the Congress would continue to pour millions of dollars into silt removal every year, when there is at hand a fair and well-thought-out solution. This is a constructive solution, which avoids the waste of a valuable hydroelectric resource. It has a high benefit-cost ratio, over two to one.

I urge the Subcommittee to approve this solution, as recommended by the Corps.

Mr. DORN. Mr. Chairman, I am familiar with this project. It causes great concern to the entire State of South Carolina. But Charleston is the port for the State. When I was in the State senate, I helped create this port authority at Charleston, because of its benefit to the entire industrial and agricultural complex in the State. We are moving a lot of soybeans through there now, as well as other products from my district and other congressional districts all over the State. We are concerned about this dredging problem at Charleston. A chemical reaction that takes place when this water comes down from the Santee-Cooper Reservoir up there and hits the salt water in Charleston Harbor.

It provides a silver/chemical reaction that is causing great concern to the city and to the State administrations, and to the entire State of South Carolina. I just hope something can be done.

Mr. BLATNIK. The benefit-cost ratio is 2.1 to 1. The comments are all in by the Federal agencies, they are all favorable.

Colonel, proceed; I think you can summarize this project and outline the nature of the project and the reasons.

**STATEMENT OF COL. RICHARD L. SEIDEL, CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
WASHINGTON, D.C.—Resumed**

Colonel SEIDEL. The proposed plan rediverts Santee River waters from above Pinopolis Dam into the lower Santee River Basin through a new canal. A federally constructed hydroelectric plant of 84,000 kilowatts capacity would use the diverted flow to generate power to compensate for limiting flow through the existing Pinopolis plant of the South Carolina Public Service Authority.

The plan also provides for limiting flows at Pinopolis prior to construction of the new Federal plant. The authority would be reimbursed for the power lost in an amount not to exceed the estimated average annual reductions in Federal cost for maintaining Charleston Harbor.

The estimated Federal cost is \$35,381,000 including provisional fish and wildlife features. The benefit-cost ratio is 2.1.

Comments of the State and Federal agencies are favorable.

The Bureau of the Budget recommends against authorization of the project at this time but does not object to the Corps of Engineers being authorized to enter into an early implementation agreement with the State public authority providing the cost does not exceed the benefits of reduced dredging and the agreement would not extend beyond April 1, 1976.