

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement.

Mr. BLATNIK. Would you show us on the map one more time the redirection? Essentially what does the project do? It redirects the waters from where to where, the shoaling up at Charleston Harbor?

Colonel SEIDEL. The water would be diverted from Lake Moultrie through a new canal north of St. Stephen and empty into the lower Santee River Basin.

Mr. BLATNIK. And flow right on out?

Colonel SEIDEL. Yes, sir.

Mr. BLATNIK. We are not concerned at this point with the so-called route B?

Colonel SEIDEL. No, sir. That was an alternative that was studied.

Mr. BLATNIK. The Corps of Engineers approves, you are in favor of this proposal?

Colonel SEIDEL. Yes, sir.

Mr. BLATNIK. I am not clear. We asked what the Bureau of the Budget meant by the language, and would you be able to enlighten us a little bit on that, or maybe someone on the staff can.

Colonel SEIDEL. Sir, our plan contains a recommendation for using the estimated savings in maintenance dredging that will result from the project to purchase power and reimburse the authority for restricting their generating plant at Pinopolis. It is estimated that it will take 10 years for the harbor to stabilize once we have reduced the flows. We can, through this early implementation concept, using the anticipated savings, start the period of the stabilization earlier, so that we reach the ultimate stabilization and the benefits of reduced dredging cost at an early date.

Mr. BLATNIK. Am I correct that the big difference actually is not on the need for corrective action, but it is merely a matter of timing, is that correct?

Colonel SEIDEL. Yes, sir. The Budget Bureau has picked the April 1, 1976, date, which is the time the Federal Power Commission license for the Pinopolis Dam would be up for renewal.

Mr. BLATNIK. Does the Corps of Engineers feel that it would be more beneficial to start the project underway as soon as possible?

Colonel SEIDEL. Yes, sir.

Mr. BLATNIK. Mr. Harsha.

Mr. HARSHA. Colonel, I am interested in why the Corps of Engineers—first, let me get this—what is Santee-Cooper? What is it? Is it a public body?

Colonel SEIDEL. Yes, sir; it is a State agency.

Mr. HARSHA. Can you give me a little more description on definition of it?

Colonel SEIDEL. Sir, Mr. Arnold Taylor of our Engineering Division has been working with the project and will address this question.

It is an agency established by the State of South Carolina by legislative action in 1934. It was created to develop the Cooper Santee and Congaree Rivers in the State. The report has a statement about the general powers and limitations of the authority.

Mr. DORN. Mr. Harsha, it is created, the Santee-Cooper Authority was created by the Legislature of the State of South Carolina. They handle the sale of power from the Pinopolis Lake there, which was built in the late 1930's with a loan from the Federal Government.