

The Burlington Journal

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PSP&L Applies For License To Construct \$27 Million Plant

Application to the Federal Power Commission for a license to build an 85,000-kilowatt hydro-electric on the Upper Baker River at an estimated cost of more than \$27 million was announced today by Frank McLaughlin, president of Puget Sound Power & Light Company.

The proposed dam, some 300 feet high, would be located about eight miles above the Company's present Baker River project and would impound about 238,000 acre-feet of water in a reservoir nine miles, thus providing greater control of the Baker River flow. This will permit another 55,000 kilowatts of added capacity to be installed at the present Lower Baker plant. The two projects will total 140,000 kilowatts of new generation, at an estimated cost of \$35 million.

When the FPC has issued the license, construction on the Upper Baker project will start as soon as weather permits next spring. Completion of the entire development is scheduled for 1959.

"We believe that new ideas and methods developed in close cooperation with State authorities over the last several years of study and experimentation will furnish a satisfactory solution to the problem of handling migratory fish," Mr. McLaughlin said.

Commenting on the October 12, 1955, resolution of the Skagit County Public Utility District authorizing dismissal of its condemnation cast

against Puget's property in Skagit County, including the Lower Baker River Power Plant, Mr. McLaughlin said, "The action taken by the Skagit PUD Commissioners is certainly in the best interests of the people in the County in terms of economic benefits. It is an important factor in Puget's decision to proceed at once with its proposed Upper Baker River development, which is a part of the Puget Sound Utilities Council program of assuring the people in the area an ample supply of electric power at the lowest possible cost."