

Engineers Work Overtime Fixing Dikes and Roads

Specially hired laborers and five power shovels have been working overtime this week to repair broken dikes and clean up flood damage around the county, Engineer H. O. Walberg's office reported last night. Working Sunday and today (George Washington's birthday), crews are performing temporary, emergency repairs on both river and salt water dikes in preparation for the expected river rise in March.

Tomorrow (Friday), Commissioners Brown Wiseman and Wallace Sharp will accompany Walberg and dike district officials to Seattle, to confer with the district engineer of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. This meeting is restricted to those invited, since a small county representation will be able to work more efficiently.

SURVEYS MADE

Army Engineers A. Gullidge and an assistant, with Lars Langloe of the state department of conservation and development, made surveys on Monday and Tuesday, and met with the county commissioners and diking district members in the court house. Langloe assured a perturbed group that the state would pay for all salt-water dike breaks, as well as temporary dikes. Diking districts would have to take care of all easements and right-of-way, and might be asked to pay for 25% of the expenses.

U. S. Soil Conservation Dept. officials are completing their extensive survey of flood damage this week. They claim that about 28,776 acres of county land were flooded, including 8320 acres around the Samish river. About 4300 linear feet of dikes were washed out in the flood, 200 feet along the Samish.

HIGHWAY 99 OPENED

Despite several inches of water still on the pavement, Highway 99 was opened to all traffic yesterday, the State Highway Patrol announced. Nearly all county roads are now open, with some detours required in up-river highways.

Faber and Concrete ferry approaches which were closed because of recent slides are being cleared, Engineer Harold Strombom said yesterday. Most regular county engineer and road work is being carried on as usual, with county employes working today in spite of the legal holiday.