Army Crosses Off Skagit As Navigable Stream

The Skagit River is no longer considered a navigable river by the Corps of Engineers, North Pacific Division, Department of the Army.

This is not an overnight decision considering the report released this week read: “Notice is hereby given that the report on Skagit River, Washington, for navigation, authorized by resolution of the Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives adopted 13 May, 1947, has been completed by the District and Division Engineers. The report is unfavorable to the improvement. A public hearing was held at Mount Vernon, Washington on 12 April 1949.”

At issue was the feasibility of improving Skagit River for navigation by dredging from deep water in Skagit Bay upstream about 54 miles to the vicinity of Concrete.

This week’s report stated that officers engaged on the project find that the estimated transportation savings “would be insufficient to justify the estimated cost of improvements.”

However in accordance to law the report is being referred to the Board of Engineers and Rivers and Harbors in Washington, D.C. for review.

Those interested may present written views on the report of the board. It is pointed out that information submitted should be new, specific in nature and bear “directly on the findings of the report.”

Written communications should be mailed to the Board of Engineers and Harbors, Washington, D.C. by Nov. 18.