

THE CONCRETE HERALD

Formerly the Hamilton Herald Established Nov. 23, 1901. Oldest Paper in the Upper Skagit.

January 21, 1965

MUD SLIDE AT POWER HOUSE NOT SERIOUS

The mud slide, currently plaguing Puget Power above the lower Baker power house here, is of no real danger, according to Andy Miller, local superintendent. The trouble is stemming from a mass of clay on the side hill above the powerhouse on the area cleared for the high lines from upper Baker. Mud started slipping, taking out the quarry road and dumping portions of slippery ooze over the bank and down behind the bulkhead that protects the east wall of the power house.

Company crews and a soil testing company have been working on the problem for several weeks and now have a system of automatic pumps siphoning off the water under the clay which had been causing it to slip. A new road has been built across the area to connect the quarry road.

Pumping operations will continue as long as water is found under the surface and Mr. Miller feels that when dry weather comes again the hill will settle and become solid enough to end any further trouble.

The condition of the soil on the hillside has been known since the dam was built and provisions had been made for expected small slides and runoff water from the area. An old logging road through the section slid out a few years ago. It was believed that springs and seepage at this point caused the latest trouble.

Most of the material that has slid off the hill has been soft mud, carrying brush and small trees that have made removal a chore.

Threat of serious damage to the building was deemed remote.