



1-21-1955

## Letter from W. E. Potter to Representative Burdick Regarding the Budget for Projects in the Missouri Basin, January 21, 1955

W. E. Potter  
*US Army*

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### Recommended Citation

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REFER TO FILE NO.

21 January 1955

Honorable Usher L. Burdick  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Burdick:

As proposed in my December letter, I have prepared an analysis of the funds recommended in the recently announced President's budget for Corps of Engineers civil works projects in the Missouri Basin. I am pleased to submit this information showing what we could accomplish with such amounts, if approved by the Congress.

The budget message proposed a total of \$79,810,000 for Corps of Engineers civil works projects already under construction in the basin, and an item of \$300,000 for a new flood control project at Greybull, Wyoming. Funds recommended would provide reasonable adequate amounts to maintain schedules on projects under construction. With the exception of the Greybull project, no new construction starts in the Missouri Basin are proposed for fiscal 1956.

Of particular interest in North Dakota is the recommended \$20,000,000 appropriation for Garrison Dam. This amount would permit completion of the powerhouse and switchyard, spillway structure and gates, county road relocations, reservoir clearing, penstocks and surge tanks, generators and powerhouse equipment, and embankment, stage V. It would provide for continuation of the spillway stilling basin, land acquisition and miscellaneous minor work. Construction and land acquisition in the Williston area are not included in the work programmed for fiscal year 1956. All power units planned in the initial power operation--three 80,000 kilowatt generators--will be placed in service under this scheduling during fiscal 1956. The project would be advanced to 90 percent of completion in fiscal 1956, with all major contracts awarded by June, 1955.

Within the fund limit established in the budget proposals for planning funds on Corps projects, the Chief of Engineers has tentatively allotted an item of \$60,000 to initiate planning on the lower Heart River flood protection project in the vicinity of Mandan. This project was authorized in 1954 and details were given in my December letter. Assurances of local cooperation required by law must be obtained before construction could start.

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Funds recommended for the upstream Missouri River dams, which will play a major role in controlling the water resources of the basin for multiple-purpose public use, would insure continued construction progress in fiscal year 1956, substantially on planned schedules. In addition to the Garrison Dam proposal, the recommendations for these major river projects and the work that could be accomplished with them are as follows:

For Oahe Dam in South Dakota, \$25,000,000. This would permit construction to advance to 18 percent of completion; provide for initiation of contracts for earthwork stage V, continuation of work on upstream tunnels; award of major contracts for the downstream flood control tunnels, outlet works, stilling basin and control shafts.

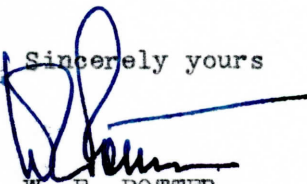
For Fort Randall Dam in South Dakota, \$7,860,000. The substantially reduced amount thus recommended as compared with the past several years is indicative of the fact that this large project is rapidly nearing completion. It is expected to be 97 percent completed by the end of fiscal 1956. These funds would permit completion of the power plant, final land acquisition, relocations of state highways, and completion of the surge tanks and penstocks. All eight power units totalling 320,000 kilowatts will be in operation by the end of the fiscal year.

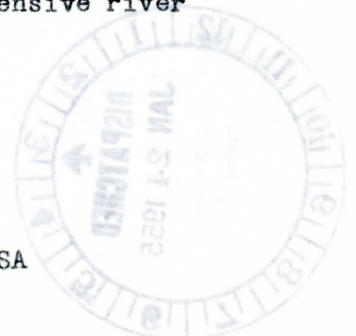
For Gavins Point Dam in South Dakota, \$13,950,000. This would advance the project to 86 percent of completion. It would permit completion of the powerhouse substructure, earthwork stage II, and the spillway; also, continuation of land acquisition, work on the powerhouse superstructure and generators. This includes the closure of the dam this summer. All major contracts on this project have been let.

Funds recommended for the 9-foot Missouri River channel stabilization and navigation projects from Sioux City to the mouth total \$11,100,000. This is broken down as follows: For the reach from Kansas City to the mouth, \$2,000,000; Kansas City to Omaha, \$3,300,000, and from Omaha to Sioux City, \$5,800,000. The substantial amount proposed for the upstream reach would permit us to make good headway on resumption of work on that section of the channel which had been without funds since World War II, until the current year. The channel project below Omaha is now about 80 percent completed.

I think the outlook with the funds proposed is for another reasonably good year of construction progress on the comprehensive river control program for our basin.

Sincerely yours

  
W. E. POTTER  
Brigadier General, USA  
Division Engineer



Funds recommended for the upstream Missouri River dams, which will play a major role in controlling the water resources of the basin for multiple-purpose public use, would insure continued construction progress in fiscal year 1955, substantially on planned schedules. In addition to the Garrison Dam proposal, the recommendations for these major river projects and the work that could be accomplished with them are as follows:

For Oahe Dam in South Dakota, \$25,000,000. This would permit construction to advance to 18 percent of completion; provide for initiation of contracts for earthwork stage V, continuation of work on upstream tunnels; award of major contracts for the downstream flood control tunnels, outlet works, stilling basin and control shafts.

For Fort Randall Dam in South Dakota, \$7,680,000. The substantially reduced amount thus recommended as compared with the past several years is indicative of the fact that this large project is rapidly nearing completion. It is expected to be 97 percent completed by the end of fiscal 1955. These funds would permit completion of the power plant, final land acquisition, relocation of state highways, and completion of the surge tanks and penstocks. All eight power units totaling 350,000 kilowatts will be in operation by the end of the fiscal year.

For Gavins Point Dam in South Dakota, \$15,980,000. This would advance the project to 88 percent of completion. It would permit completion of the powerhouse substructure, earthwork stage II, and the spillway; also, continuation of land acquisition, work on the powerhouse superstructure and generators. This includes the closure of the dam this summer. All major contracts on this project have been let.

Funds recommended for the 9-foot Missouri River channel stabilization and navigation projects from Sioux City to the mouth total \$11,100,000. This is broken down as follows: for the reach from Kansas City to the mouth, \$2,000,000; Kansas City to Omaha, \$3,300,000; and from Omaha to Sioux City, \$5,800,000. The substantial amount proposed for the upstream reach would permit us to make good headway on resumption of work on that section of the channel which had been without funds since World War II, until the current year. The channel project below Omaha is now about 80 percent completed.

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