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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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REPORT ISSUED ON NEHALEM RIVER, OREGON, WATERPOWER RESOURCES

The Geological Survey is releasing to open file its report on the "Waterpower resources in Nehalem River Basin, Oregon, with geology of dam and reservoir sites" by L. L. Young, J. L. Colbert, A. M. Piper, and D. L. Gaskill.

The report discusses the possibility of using Nehalem River water for power production at sites within the basin or by diverting it to the Columbia River. The diversion could be by gravity or in combination with a pumped-storage project.

Two factors, namely, concentration of runoff in the winter months and a large storage site, combine to give the Nehalem River considerable capacity for producing power at a time when the Columbia basin streams are at low stages.

As is normal with Oregon coastal rivers, waters of the Nehalem River are derived principally from rainfall which occurs in a seasonal pattern that concentrates about 80 percent of the annual total into a five-month period during the winter and early spring months. In comparison with other coast streams, this stream is exceptionally well-endowed with storage and regulating possibilities. Also, preliminary geologic examinations indicates that the necessary dams would be geologically feasible, and high winter runoff and a large storage basin combine to make the river attractive for power development, particularly for winter firming power. As a means of estimating the potential power considered practicable for development an illustrated plan including five sites is described.

Copies of the report are available for consultation at the Geological Survey Library, 1033 General Services Administration Bldg., Washington 25, D. C.; 834 Interior Bldg., Portland, Oregon; and 232 Appraisers Bldg., San Francisco, Calif.

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