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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

August 11, 1964

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Y

Hon. Mike Mansfield  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Mansfield:

This is in reply to your letter of July 13, 1964, in which you inquired of the progress being made on the rehabilitation of Swift Dam and Lower Two Medicine Dam, which were destroyed by floods during the early part of last June.

As you have indicated, the Office of Emergency Planning has requested the Bureau of Reclamation to undertake the reconstruction or repair of the damaged facilities of the Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company, including Swift Dam. Funds have been made available for this purpose, and investigations leading to a formalized plan of construction are in progress. It is our tentative conclusion that a complete new structure to replace Swift Dam will be required. We propose to proceed as vigorously as possible with this work and contemplate that a contract for the first phase of construction will be awarded this fall.

In addition, the Office of Emergency Planning has declared the Bynum Irrigation District and the Sun River and Milk River Federal Reclamation Projects eligible for assistance under P.L. 81-875 and has requested the Bureau of Reclamation to repair the flood-damaged facilities.

With respect to Two Medicine Dam, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has requested the Bureau to initiate investigations preparatory to reconstructing the dam to provide a reservoir of 40,000 acre-feet of irrigation storage. You will recall that an appropriation of \$1,000,000 was provided for this purpose in the Department of the Interior appropriation for Fiscal Year 1965. Preliminary field work has been initiated to determine the best site for the new dam. In view of the fact that some time will be required to determine the suitability of a site for the larger structure, we cannot say now just when construction may commence. We are hopeful that a contract for the new structure can be awarded in the spring of next year.

Your letter also forwarded copies of four telegrams from your constituents reporting substantial personal losses due to the floods. We regret

that we have to advise that the Reclamation Laws do not include provision for the relief of private individuals or the restoration of private property damaged from natural causes. There are certain provisions in Public Law 81-875 that indicate relief can be granted to private individuals for clearing debris and wreckage from private lands. This act is administered by the Office of Emergency Planning through the State and county. It is suggested that your constituents discuss this with their county officials or Creath A. Tooley, Director, Regional Office 8, Office of Emergency Planning, Everett, Washington.

The foregoing explanations are also responsive to your letter of July 21, 1964, and the enclosed copy of a letter from ..... of Shelby, Montana.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

G. G. Stamm  
Acting Commissioner