UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Region 4

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NOTICE OF INITIATION OF INVESTIGATION

Name of investigation: Bear River Project, Idaho-Utah

Location of investigation: Franklin and Oneida Counties in southeastern Idaho and Cache and Box Elder Counties in northern Utah, Bear River Basin.

Date investigation initiated: Preliminary investigations, basin-wide in scope, were started in 1945. In 1948 the potential development was reduced to the Oneida and Cache divisions. The Cache division was subsequently changed to the East Cache project and the Oneida division has become the present Bear River project.
Probable date of completion: January 1958.

1. Scope of proposed investigation.--To develop plans for the fullest practicable control and use of the Bear River for irrigation multi-purpose uses. Approximately 100,000 acres of new land and 23,000 acres requiring supplemental irrigation can probably be served. The tentative plans of development provide for construction of Gentile Reservoir and the enlargement of Cutler Reservoir on the Bear River, and a canal from Gentile Dam to Curlew Valley serving lands en route and with re-regulation at the Sage Valley Reservoir site in Curlew Valley. Also, specific storage could be provided on the lower reaches of Bear River to regulate and provide additional storage supply to the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

2. Nature of problems involved.--Water supply operation studies subordinating the present single-purpose power operations to multi-purpose operations to provide greater over-all benefits will produce power deficits which must be offset by power from other sources. Diversion of water for irrigation to land areas west of the Bear River will change the river at the established Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. The heavily textured soils with high initial salt content and relatively flat topography present extensive drainage problems for some land areas.

3. Prospective solutions which should be explored.--Detailed land classification and drainage surveys will be undertaken to determine most suitable areas to be served within water supply limitations. Power deficits could be made up from Colorado River Storage project power or alternative steam-generating sources. Coordinated studies with Fish and Wildlife Service have been undertaken to determine the best plan for protecting and possibly enlarging the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

4. Participation by local, State, and Federal agencies.--It would be appreciated if interested agencies would forward within 30 days an expression of their interest in the proposed project and a statement of pertinent data they may have or that can be made available for our use in the investigation, together with comments and suggestions they care to make.

Prepared July 13, 1955

Reid Jerman, Regional Project Development Engineer

Transmitted July 20, 1955

E. O. Larson, Regional Director