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McGEE CREEK PROJECT—DEL CITY AQUEDUCT, OKLAHOMA

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HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESEARCH AND WATER RESOURCES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-FOURTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 2194

A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN THE McGEE CREEK PROJECT, OKLAHOMA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

H.R. 6622

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR REPAIR OF THE DEL CITY AQUEDUCT, A FEATURE OF THE NORMAN FEDERAL RECLAMATION PROJECT, OKLAHOMA

JUNE 15, 1976



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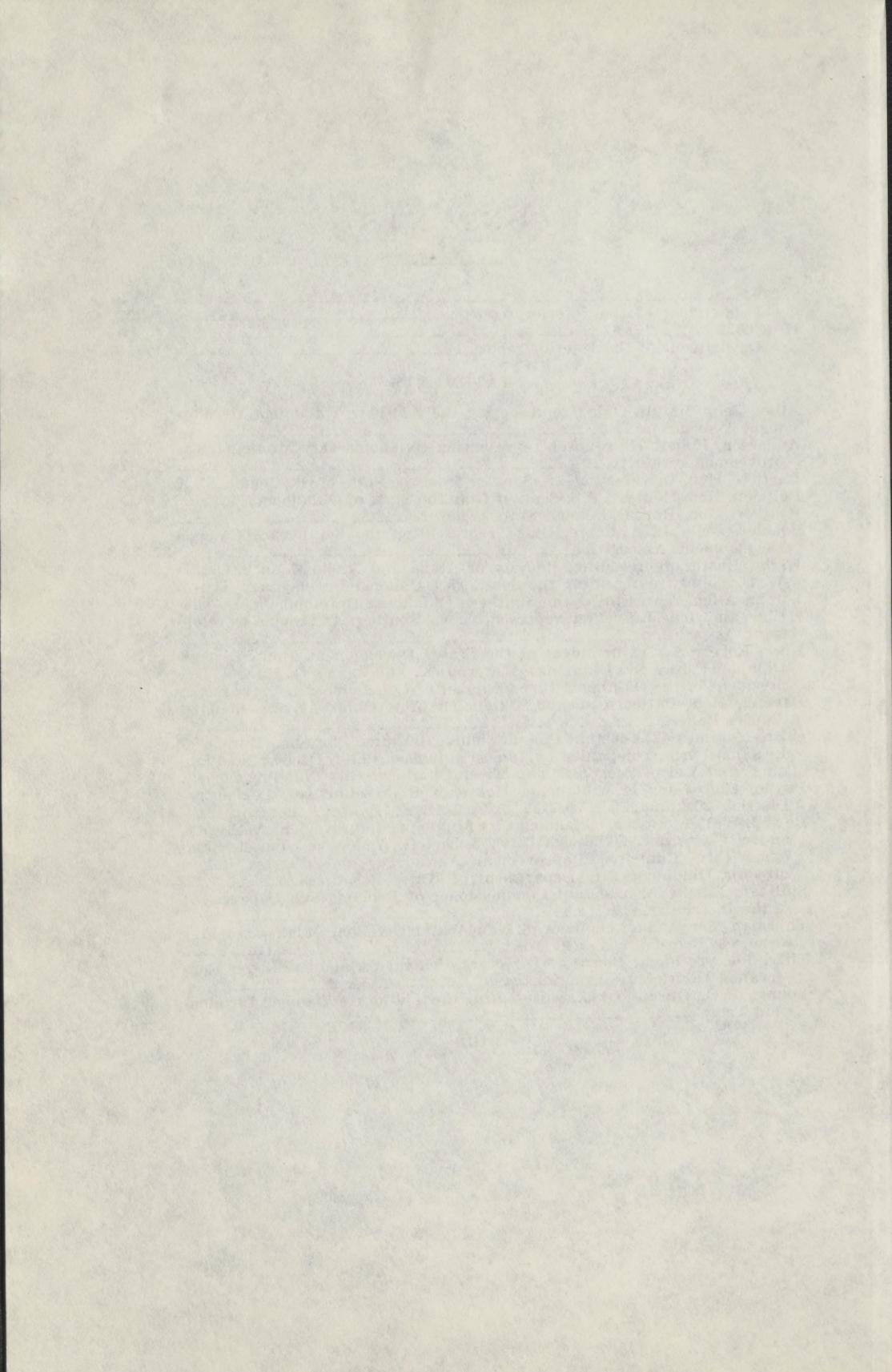
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**McGEE CREEK PROJECT—DEL CITY AQUEDUCT,
OKLAHOMA**

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1976

**U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESEARCH AND
WATER RESOURCES OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR
AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.**

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m. in room 3302, Dirksen Office Building, Hon. Dewey F. Bartlett presiding.

Present: Senator Bartlett.

Also present: Russell R. Brown, professional staff member.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. DEWEY F. BARTLETT, A U.S.
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

Senator BARTLETT. The hearing will come to order. The hearing before the Energy Research and Water Resources Subcommittee this morning is to take testimony on two bills which would affect the State of Oklahoma.

The first measure is Senate bill 2194, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate and maintain proposed McGee Creek project in central Oklahoma.

Senator Bellmon and I joined together in sponsoring this legislation, and we are pleased that today's hearing was scheduled on this important measure.

The McGee Creek project is an important element in providing vitally needed water so necessary for the future of the greater Oklahoma City area.

The second measure is also important to the provision of water to the towns and cities of Oklahoma. H.R. 6622 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District in order to facilitate repair of the Del City aqueduct, a feature of the existing Norman Federal reclamation project.

Senate bill 2194 and H.R. 6622 and related departmental reports will appear in the record at this point.

[The material referred to above follows:]

94TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2194

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 28, 1975

Mr. BARTLETT (for himself and Mr. BELLMON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate, and maintain the McGee Creek project, Oklahoma, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to construct,
4 operate, and maintain the McGee Creek project, Oklahoma,
5 in accordance with the Federal reclamation laws (Act of
6 June 17, 1902, 32 Stat. 388, and Acts amendatory thereof
7 or supplementary thereto) and the provisions of this Act
8 for the purposes of storing, regulating, and conveying water
9 for municipal and industrial use, conserving and developing
10 fish and wildlife resources, providing outdoor recreation

1 opportunities, developing a scenic recreation area, and con-
2 trolling floods. The principal features of the project shall
3 consist of a dam and reservoir on McGee Creek, appurtenant
4 conveyance facilities, public outdoor recreation facilities,
5 and a scenic recreation area.

6 SEC. 2. In order to provide for the protection, preserva-
7 tion, use, and enjoyment by the general public of the unique
8 scenic and esthetic values of the existing pristine canyon area
9 adjacent to the upper portion of the McGee Creek Reservoir,
10 the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to purchase
11 privately owned lands as he determines necessary to develop
12 a scenic recreation area adjacent to the McGee Creek Res-
13 ervoir of not to exceed twenty thousand acres. The Secre-
14 tary is also authorized to construct such facilities as he de-
15 termines to be appropriate for utilization of the scenic area
16 for the safety, health, protection, and compatible recreational
17 use of the visiting public.

18 SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Interior shall make such
19 rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the pro-
20 visions and intent of section 2 of this Act and may enter into
21 an agreement or agreements with the State of Oklahoma, or
22 political subdivision thereof, or a non-Federal agency or
23 agencies or organizations as appropriate, for the development
24 of a recreational management plan, and for the management

1 of recreation including the operation and maintenance of the
2 facilities within the area.

3 SEC. 4. The interest rate used for computing interest
4 during construction and interest on the unpaid balance of
5 the reimbursable costs of the project shall be determined
6 by the Secretary of the Treasury, as of the beginning of the
7 fiscal year in which construction of the project is commenced,
8 on the basis of the computed average interest rate payable
9 by the Treasury upon its outstanding marketable public ob-
10 ligations which are neither due nor callable for redemption
11 for fifteen years from date of issue.

12 SEC. 5. (a) The Secretary is authorized to enter into a
13 contract with a qualified entity or entities for delivery of
14 water and for repayment of all the reimbursable construction
15 costs: *Provided*, That the costs of the lands and facilities for
16 developing the scenic recreation area, authorized by section
17 2 of this Act, shall be nonreimbursable.

18 (b) Construction of the project shall not be commenced
19 until suitable contract has been executed by the Secretary
20 with a qualified entity or entities.

21 (c) Such contract may be entered into without regard
22 to the last sentence of section 9, subsection (c), of the Rec-
23 lamation Project Act of 1939.

24 (d) Upon execution of the contract referred to in

1 section 5(a) of this Act, and upon completion of con-
2 struction of the project, the Secretary shall transfer to a
3 qualified contracting entity or entities the care, operation,
4 and maintenance of the project works; and, after such trans-
5 fer is made, will reimburse the contractor annually for that
6 portion of the year's operation and maintenance costs,
7 which, if the United States had continued to operate the
8 project, would have been nonreimbursable. Prior to assum-
9 ing care, operation, and maintenance of the project works
10 the contracting entity or entities shall agree to operate
11 them in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Sec-
12 retary of the Army with respect to flood control, and by
13 the Secretary of the Interior with respect to fish, wildlife,
14 and recreation.

15 (e) Upon execution of the contract referred to in sec-
16 tion 5(a) of this Act, and upon completion of construction
17 of the project, the contracting entity or entities, their designee
18 or designees, shall have a permanent right to use the reser-
19 voir and related facilities of the McGee Creek project in
20 accordance with said contract.

21 SEC. 6. The conservation and development of the fish
22 and wildlife resources, and the enhancement of recreation
23 opportunities in connection with the McGee Creek project,
24 except the scenic recreation area authorized by section 2 of

1 this Act shall be in accordance with provisions of the Fed-
2 eral Water Project Recreation Act (79 Stat. 213).

3 SEC. 7. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated
4 to defray construction costs of the McGee Creek project
5 the sum of \$40,000,000 (January 1975 price levels), plus
6 or minus such amounts, if any, as may be justified by reason
7 of ordinary fluctuations in construction costs as indicated
8 by engineering cost indexes applicable to the type of con-
9 struction involved herein. There are also authorized to be
10 appropriated such additional sums as may be required for the
11 operation and maintenance of the project.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Jul: - 1976

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your request for the views of this Department on S. 2194, a bill "To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate, and maintain the McGee Creek project, Oklahoma, and for other purposes."

We oppose enactment of S. 2194 and recommend that further consideration be delayed until the feasibility report on the project has been completed, reviewed, and approved.

S. 2194 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate, and maintain the McGee Creek project, Oklahoma. Construction funds of \$40 million, based on January 1975 prices, would be authorized to be appropriated, with a provision for adjustment due to cost fluctuations. The project would be built under the Federal reclamation laws for the purposes of storing, regulating, and conveying water for municipal and industrial use, conserving and developing fish and wildlife resources, providing outdoor recreation opportunities, developing a scenic recreation area, and controlling floods. The Secretary would also be authorized to purchase up to 20,000 acres of private land necessary to develop a scenic recreation area adjacent to McGee Creek and to construct appropriate facilities, make rules and regulations, and enter into agreements for the planning and management of the recreation area.

Customary financial and cost-sharing provisions are also included in the bill, except that costs of lands and facilities for developing the scenic recreation area would be nonreimbursable.

Additionally, S. 2194 would require a suitable contract for delivery of water and for repayment of all reimbursable construction costs, executed by the Secretary, before commencement of the project. The contract could be entered into without regard to the last sentence of section 9, subsection (c), of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939, which states:

" . . . No contract relating to municipal water supply or miscellaneous purposes or to electric power or power privileges shall be made unless, in the judgment of the Secretary, it will not impair the efficiency of the project for irrigation purposes. . . ."

S. 2194 would require the Secretary to transfer to a qualified contracting entity the care, operation, and maintenance of the project works after executing such contract and completion or construction. S. 2194 would also provide for annual reimbursement to such qualified entities and their designees would have a permanent right to use the reservoir and related facilities in accordance with the contract.

The McGee Creek project was authorized for study by Public Law 93-122, dated October 9, 1973. A feasibility report on a plan of development for the project is scheduled for completion in June 1977. Further work on the proposed feasibility report will require consideration of areas that might be added to the National Wildlife Refuge System, Indian water rights, mineral studies, among other matters. A final environmental impact statement must also be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

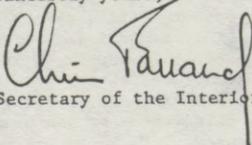
The Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-72, section 31b) requires a 50 percent share of the costs of land, facilities, and project modifications for recreation enhancement be contributed by non-Federal interest. We know of no reason for changing this statutory arrangement in S. 2194.

Likewise, we do not believe that S. 2194 should be exempt from the provisions of the last sentence of section 9, subsection (c), of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

ACTING
Assistant


Secretary of the Interior

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
Chairman, Committee on
Interior and Insular Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

94TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6622

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 7 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 11), 1975

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

AN ACT

To provide for repair of the Del City aqueduct, a feature of the Norman Federal reclamation project, Oklahoma.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to
4 enter into an amendatory contract with the Central Okla-
5 homa Master Conservancy District, organized under the laws
6 of the State of Oklahoma, providing for an adjustment of the
7 payment obligations of the Central Oklahoma Conservancy
8 District under the contract of September 5, 1961, between
9 said district and the United States pursuant to an Act of
10 June 27, 1960 (74 Stat. 225); said adjustment of repay-
11 ment obligations to be equal to the costs incurred by said

1 district to repair the Del City aqueduct, which, in the opinion
2 of the Secretary of Interior, are in excess of the costs of
3 normal operation, maintenance, and replacement: *Provided,*
4 That any such costs shall be credited so as to reduce the
5 repayment obligation of said district annually at the end of
6 the year during which said costs are incurred.

Passed the House of Representatives October 6, 1975.

Attest:

W. PAT JENNINGS,

Clerk.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JUN 14 1976

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your request for the views of the Department concerning H.R. 6622, a bill as it passed the House of Representatives October 6, 1975, "To provide for repair of the Del City aqueduct, a feature of the Norman Federal reclamation project, Oklahoma."

We recommend enactment of H.R. 6622.

The bill would authorize the Secretary to amend its contract of September 5, 1961 with the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District to adjust the District's repayment obligations by an amount equal to the costs incurred by the District for excessive repairs to the aqueduct. The contract is for 50 years with 40 years of repayment obligation left. The aqueduct was Federally constructed under an agreement with the District whereby the District would maintain and operate it thereafter.

During the time the six-mile-long Del City pipeline has been in service, approximately ten years, 87 breaks have occurred. The pipeline, a concrete pressure pipeline, is similar to pipelines which are being operated successfully on several other projects within the Southwest Region.

The Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District, which has operated the pipeline since May 2, 1966, has borne the cost of operation, with the exception of expenses incurred in repairing and assessing the numerous pipeline breaks. A total of 42 breaks during the 36-month warranty period and 32 additional breaks during the following 41-1/2 months ending December 31, 1972, were repaired by the contractor at no expense to the District or to the United States. Pipeline breaks subsequent to 1972 have been repaired by the United States, in conjunction with research studies aimed at ascertaining causes of the breaks.

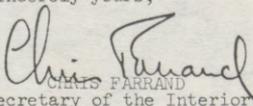
We have concluded that the pipeline breaks have been caused by several factors beyond the District's control, including unusual soil conditions. We cannot predict how far into the future the pipeline failures will continue. Based upon the historical record, however, we estimate that an average of six breaks will occur

each year for some time in the future, and that the average annual cost of the repairs (approximately \$500/break) would be approximately \$3,000. The total future cost of pipeline repairs is not expected to exceed \$150,000 over the anticipated repayment period. The total estimated project cost, including \$685,323 interest during construction, is \$18,371,444. The total value of contracted repayment is \$11,978,000.

We do not believe that all of the anticipated breaks should be considered a routine operation, maintenance, and replacement responsibility. We recommend that future pipeline breaks be repaired by the District, as a part of its operation and maintenance program, with the District's costs for excessive repairs (as determined by the Secretary) credited toward its annual construction repayment obligation to the United States, as provided in the proposed bill.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely yours,



CHRIS FARRAND

Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Honorable Henry M. Jackson
Chairman, Committee on
Interior and Insular Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Senator BARTLETT. Our first witness today is Assistant Commissioner James J. O'Brien, Bureau of Reclamation.

Mr. O'Brien.

STATEMENT OF JAMES J. O'BRIEN, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, RESOURCE PLANNING, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION; ACCOMPANIED BY JAMES ELLINGBOE, CHIEF, DIVISION OF PLANNING; AND ANDROS PECK, PLANNING OFFICER, OKLAHOMA CITY PLANNING OFFICE

Mr. O'BRIEN. Good morning, Senator.

Senator BARTLETT. Senator Bellmon may appear at any time. If he does, we will accommodate him, because I know he has a very busy schedule today. It seems to be one of those busy days here.

Mr. O'Brien, if you would introduce your colleagues.

Mr. O'BRIEN. Yes, sir, Senator. I have with me on my right Mr. James Ellingboe, who is Chief of our Division of Planning in Washington; and on my left is Mr. Andros Peck, who is the planning officer of our Oklahoma City planning office.

Senator BARTLETT. Thank you.

Mr. O'Brien, you can summarize your statement if you would like. We are trying to move quickly, so your whole statement will appear in the record, and we would like for you to proceed as you wish.

Mr. O'BRIEN. I will do my best, sir.

We are appearing, of course, to offer the Department's views on S. 2194, a bill to authorize the Secretary to construct, operate, and maintain the McGee Creek project in Oklahoma.

As indicated in the Department's recent letter to the chairman of the committee, the Department of the Interior is opposed to enactment of S. 2194 and recommends that further consideration be delayed until the feasibility report on the project has been completed, reviewed, and approved.

Information, data, and analyses compiled to date have been distributed to participating State and Federal agencies and local interests for preliminary field-level review. An interim report, based on the latest available data, has been recently completed and furnished to this committee.

The regional director's proposed report on this project and the draft environmental impact statement are scheduled to be completed in December of this year with the final report to be completed in June of next year.

Public hearings have been held by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board on February 8, 1968, and as the result of those hearings, McGee Creek project was incorporated in the short range plan for water resource development in the State of Oklahoma.

The McGee Creek study was conducted by a multidisciplinary planning team of Federal, State and local interests. It was formed in 1974 and conducted the investigations in accordance with the "Principles and Standards for Planning Water and Related Land Resources".

There have been a series of public meetings throughout the past 2 years. I would like to discuss in some detail plan D.

We completed four plans in this multidisciplinary planning effort, plans A, B, C, and D. The plan that appeared to have the most support and was most supported by the Bureau of Reclamation is plan D.

On the map that you see on your left is a sketch of the McGee Creek project as set out by plan D. It will provide municipal and industrial water supplies for the city of Atoka, for Atoka County, for Oklahoma City, and for the Southern Oklahoma Development Association.

The project would also incorporate flood control, water based recreation, fish and wildlife enhancement, and the establishment of a natural scenic area as part of the project.

The principal features of the project are a dam and reservoir on McGee Creek, appurtenant conveyance facilities to convey the waters from McGee Creek reservoir to Atoka reservoir, and natural scenic recreation and wildlife management areas adjacent to the reservoir.

This plan has a capability to satisfy the NCAR future water requirements of Oklahoma City, and the other three entities which contemplate contracting for the water.

It will provide about two-thirds of the long range needs of Atoka County. The State of Oklahoma has issued water right permits to the entities for the use of the waters of McGee Creek as contemplated in this proposal.

The dam would impound the waters of both McGee Creek and Potapo Creek. It would be an earthfill structure 156 feet high and 2,300 feet long at its crest.

It would also include a dike with a maximum height of 59 feet and a length of 4,800 feet.

It will have an emergency spillway with a capacity of 73,700 cubic feet per second and would bypass the dam and discharge into McGee Creek about 2,000 feet below the dam.

The reservoir itself would have a total capacity of 278,000 acre-feet, with 92,500 acre-feet for the surcharge pool to provide protection of the dam during extreme flood conditions; a flood control pool for exclusive flood control storage of 86,000 acre-feet; a conservation pool of 92,800 acre-feet to provide a firm annual yield of about 68,000 acre-feet; and would also contain 6,600 acre-feet for sediment storage.

The reservoir would have a surface area of about 6,800 acres at maximum water surface elevation; 5,200 acres at top of flood control pool; and 3,350 acres at top of conservation pool.

Total land required for the project would be about 30,000 acres.

From the reservoir's firm yield of 68,000 acre-feet, about 60,000 acre-feet would be available for municipal and industrial water uses. The other 8,000 acre-feet would be used to provide a steady and constant stream flow downstream for the enhancement of fish resources.

Of the 60,000 acre-feet of municipal and industrial water supply, 40,000 acre-feet would be committed to Oklahoma City; 8,000 acre-feet would be committed to Atoka County; 8,000 acre-feet would be committed to the city of Atoka; and 4,000 acre-feet would be committed to the Southern Oklahoma Development Trust.

SENATOR BARTLETT. Mr. O'Brien, could you tell me what communities will benefit from the commitment to the Southern Oklahoma Development Trust, the 4,000 acre-feet?

MR. O'BRIEN. I will ask Mr. Peck to handle that, if he would.

Mr. PECK. Southern Oklahoma Development Association includes the 10-county area. There are many small communities, in that it is primarily rural in area.

Senator BARTLETT. So this in effect would, in addition to Atoka County and Oklahoma County, benefit a sizable area?

Mr. PECK. That is correct.

Mr. O'BRIEN. A major feature of the plan as we put it together as a multidisciplinary team includes the area shown in brown and the area shown in green on the map, which include a natural wildlife management area, and a natural scenic recreation area. They encompass 18,900 acres in total.

The area of 10,000 acres shown in brown is for management. That includes 2,300 acres of land that would be required to mitigate the habitat lost by the creation of the reservoir.

This plan was formulated primarily to emphasize the environmental quality aspects of water resource development associated with the provision of the major water supply for the communities of the area.

It is expected the preservation of this natural scenic area and the wildlife management area will provide a wilderness-type recreation experience that is not now available to the residential metropolitan areas such as Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Fort Worth.

The total investment cost of the project is estimated to be \$86,945,000 at July 1975 prices. This is made up of \$78,206,000 for construction, and \$8,739,000 for interest during construction.

The construction cost is broken down to \$38,233,000 for the dam and reservoir; \$30,594,000 for the conveyance system from McGee Creek to Atoka Reservoir; \$736,000 for fish and wildlife mitigation measures, \$800,000 for archeological recovery; \$1,457,000 for recreation facilities; and \$6,386,000 to purchase the natural scenic and wildlife management areas.

About 86 percent of the total investment cost, would be reimbursable by the project beneficiaries. Nonreimbursable investment costs would be \$10,764,600.

Annual costs of the project, including \$441,300 in annual operation, maintenance and replacement costs, would be \$5,793,600.

The cost of municipal and industrial water computed at the current interest rate applicable for this fiscal year would be \$75.43 per acre-foot, or 23 cents per thousand gallons delivered at Atoka Reservoir.

The annual dollar benefits for plan D are estimated to be \$7,145,600. The benefits exceed the annual cost by \$1,352,000, and this would translate to a benefit-cost ratio of 1.2 to 1.

This concludes the discussion of plan D. If you would like, I can discuss the other alternatives and how they differ from plan D.

Senator BARTLETT. No; this is the one I think we are interested in.

Mr. O'BRIEN. Then that would conclude our oral statement. If you have any questions, we would be happy to respond to them to the best of our ability.

Senator BARTLETT. We would like, Mr. O'Brien, an update on the cost figures. You gave us, I believe, July 1975 figures. If we could have the latest figures available.

Mr. O'BRIEN. Yes, Senator. We have updated the construction costs of the project to January 1976. That would be \$83,239,000.

Senator BARTLETT. That is January of 1976?

Mr. O'BRIEN. January of 1976, yes, sir.

Senator BARTLETT. Mr. O'Brien, when may the committee expect to have the report forwarded to the Congress?

Mr. O'BRIEN. We anticipate that we would complete the processing of our report within the Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Interior by next June. At that point in time, it would go through the normal processing route of being sent to the States and other Federal agencies for a 90 day review. Then after accommodation of the comments of those agencies, it would be sent to the Office of Management and Budget for clearance by the President to find out if it is in conformance with the President's plans.

So I would think it would be sometime in calendar year 1978 before we can officially transmit this report to the Congress.

Senator BARTLETT. That seems to be quite a long time. Is there any way that it might be expedited?

Mr. O'BRIEN. I would have to ask Andy Peck. The time that I added was already expedited. We have a schedule to be completed in June of next year, and it would take about a minimum of 6 months. It would take a minimum of 6 months to get it through the 90-day review process by States and agencies and clearance through the Office of Management and Budget.

Now whether Mr. Peck is willing to expedite the earlier portion of it, I am not sure.

Senator BARTLETT. Mr. Peck.

Mr. PECK. Well, as Mr. O'Brien testified, the feasibility investigation is essentially completed. There are, of course, a few loose ends that have not yet been tied in.

I think that the date for the draft report is December of this year. It probably could be expedited based upon the quality of the information we have at the present time. We could probably cut about, say 6 months off the preparation of the draft report.

The processing time is pretty much fixed by such things as hearings on environmental impact statements and so on. So 6 months is about the best we could do in cutting down the total time for processing the report.

Senator BARTLETT. Well, if it could be 1977 instead of 1978, that would sound a lot better.

Mr. PECK. Yes, sir.

Senator BARTLETT. Do you think you can make that?

Mr. PECK. Yes, sir.

Senator BARTLETT. Good.

The staff was just commenting to me that you have prepared an excellent report, and we compliment you on that. We think that that will certainly facilitate moving a report to Congress in 1977. And we do compliment you on a very fine report.

We know that that will be helpful in passing this legislation.

Mr. O'BRIEN. Thank you, Senator.

Senator BARTLETT. Let me just ask one more question. On the acreage that would be included in the natural scenic wildlife management area and the natural scenic parks and recreation area, does your plan call for that acreage to be acquired by easement or by purchase?

Mr. O'BRIEN. That would be an outright fee acquisition purchase.

Senator BARTLETT. Is there anything else that any one of the three of you would like to say?

Mr. O'BRIEN. No, sir.

Senator BARTLETT. I think this is excellent testimony, and I compliment you on doing it very succinctly and expertly. We appreciate your testimony.

Mr. O'BRIEN. Thank you, Senator.

[The prepared statement of Mr. O'Brien follows:]

STATEMENT OF JAMES J. O'BRIEN, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, RESOURCE PLANNING,
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Mr. Chairman, and members of the subcommittee, we appear today to offer the Department's views on S. 2194, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate, and maintain the McGee Creek Project, Oklahoma.

As indicated in the Department's recent letter to the chairman of the Committee, the Department of the Interior is opposed to enactment of S. 2194 and recommends that further consideration be delayed until the feasibility report on the project has been completed, reviewed, and approved.

The feasibility study, in response to Public Law 93-122 is nearing completion. Information, data, and analyses compiled to date have been distributed to participating State and Federal agencies and local interests for preliminary field-level review. An interim report, based on the latest available data has been recently completed and furnished to the committee.

The Regional Director's Proposed Report and draft environmental statement are scheduled to be completed in December of this year with the final report and environmental statement to be completed in June 1977. The most significant environmental impacts of all plans are displayed in the interim report.

Public hearings, held by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board on February 8, 1968, incorporated the McGee Creek Project in the short-range plan for water resource development in the State of Oklahoma.

A multidisciplinary planning (MOP) team of Federal, State, and local interests was formed in 1974 to conduct the investigations, and a public involvement program was initiated to obtain input from interested citizens and special interest groups in accordance with the Water Resources Council's "Principles and Standards for Planning Water and Related Land Resources." A series of public meetings and plan formulation workshops were held between September 1974 and March 1976. Several Federal, State, and local interests have actively participated in the study. The present and projected problems and needs of the area were evaluated and alternative opportunities to meet these needs were defined. From these alternatives, those considered most viable by the planning team were selected for further study and are presented in the interim report as plans A through D.

I will discuss in some detail plan D which appears to be the most favorable plan. I will also point out the differences between plan D and the other alternatives considered.

Plan D will provide municipal and industrial water supplies for the city of Atoka, Atoka County, Southern Oklahoma Development Association, and Oklahoma City. Flood control, water based recreation, fish and wildlife mitigation and enhancement, and the establishment of a natural scenic area will also be developed as part of the project. The principal features of the plan will be a dam and reservoir on McGee Creek, *appurtenant* conveyance facilities, public outdoor recreation facilities, and natural scenic recreation and wildlife management areas adjacent to the reservoir.

Plan D will satisfy the near future water requirements of Oklahoma City, the city of Atoka, and other communities in the project area. It will also provide about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the long range needs of Atoka County. Water right permits have been issued by the State of Oklahoma to meet estimated water requirements from McGee Creek Reservoir as follows: city of Atoka, 8,000 acre-feet; Atoka County, 8,000 acre-feet; Southern Oklahoma Development Trust, 4,000 acre-feet; and Oklahoma City, 40,000 acre-feet.

The proposed dam and reservoir would be located on McGee Creek at a site about 15 miles southeast of Atoka and $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Farris in Atoka County,

Oklahoma. The dam which would impound the waters of McGee and Potapo Creeks, would be an earthfill structure 156 feet high and 2,300 feet long at its crest.

In addition, a dike would be required across a low saddle about 2 miles north-west of the damsite. The dike would also be an earthfill structure with a maximum height of 59 feet and a length of 4,800 feet.

An emergency spillway would be excavated through rock and earth in a small saddle about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of the dam. It would have a crest length of 750 feet, capacity of 73,700 cubic feet per second and would discharge into McGee Creek about 2000 feet below the dam. The spillway would function only during extreme flood conditions when the flood waters could not be contained in the reservoir flood control pool.

McGee Creek Reservoir would have a total storage capacity of about 278,000 acre-feet. That would include a 92,500 acre-foot surcharge pool to provide protection of the dam during extreme flood conditions, an 86,000 acre-foot flood control pool for prevention of downstream flood damage, and a 92,800 acre-foot active conservation pool to provide an annual firm yield of about 68,000 acre-feet. Sediment deposited within the 100-year reservoir operation period would occupy about 6,600 acre-feet of storage capacity.

Water surface area of the reservoir would be about 6,800 acres at maximum water surface elevation; 5,200 acres at top of flood control pool; and 3,350 acres at top of conservation pool.

Total land required for the project would be about 29,900 acres. Very few relocations will be required since the project is located in a relatively uninhabited area. Relocations include two permanent residences (both belonging to one family), one cabin, several barns, two cemeteries containing about 25 graves, and about 2 miles of county road.

From the reservoir's firm yield of 68,000 acre-feet, 60,000 acre-feet would be available for municipal and industrial uses. The municipal and industrial water would be conveyed through a 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile buried concrete pipe aqueduct to the existing Atoka Reservoir for distribution by the contracting entities. Oklahoma City would transport its allocation (40,000 acre-feet) through its existing Atoka Reservoir-Oklahoma City pipeline, while Atoka would receive its water through the existing pipeline from Atoka Reservoir to the city's water treatment plant. The remaining 8,000 acre-feet would be released to McGee Creek for downstream improvement of about 58 miles of aquatic habitat; until such time as this yield is needed for other purposes.

A fishing basin and recreation corridor below the dam would provide managed stream fishing down to the highway bridge, about 4.7 river miles below the dam.

A major emphasis of the plan is an 18,900-acre natural scenic recreation and wildlife area, in which 8,900 acres of natural forest adjacent to McGee Creek would be preserved in its natural state for scenic and wilderness-type recreational uses. The additional 10,000 acres on the Potapo Creek arm of the reservoir, including 2,300 acres required for wildlife mitigation, would be managed for habitat improvement, hunting and other wildlife recreational uses.

Plan D was formulated as basically an environmental quality emphasis plan in accordance with the WRC Principles and Standards interpretations. Not only will the project provide a critically needed municipal and industrial water supply, flood protection, and stimulus for improving the region's economy, but it will also provide measures to preserve, protect, and manage a segment of the fast diminishing Ouachita Mountain primitive woodland resources. The present land owners are clearing the lands in the immediate area of the project for a cattle grazing operation, while commercial lumbering concerns nearby are expanding their tree farming operations.

It is expected that preservation of this natural scenic area will also provide a wilderness-type recreation experience that is not now available to residents of metropolitan centers such as Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Fort Worth-Dallas.

There are some environmental tradeoffs resulting from the project. About 3,350 acres of terrestrial wildlife habitat and 21 miles of aquatic habitat would be inundated and essentially eliminated. In its place, 3,350 acres of flat water habitat and water-oriented recreation would be provided and 18,900 acres of terrestrial habitat would be improved and preserved for future generations. A fishing basin and a 4.7 mile recreation corridor downstream from the dam would provide easy access for stream fishing.

The total investment cost of the project is estimated to be \$86,945,000 at July 1975 prices. This total includes construction costs of \$78,206,000 and interest during construction of \$8,739,000. The construction cost of \$78,206,000 includes \$38,233,000 for the dam and reservoir, \$30,594,000 for the conveyance system from McGee Creek to Atoka Reservoir, \$1,36,000 for fish and wildlife mitigation measures, \$800,000 for archeological recovery, \$1,457,000 for recreation facilities, and \$6,386,000 to purchase the natural scenic and wildlife management areas.

Of the total investment cost of \$86,945,000 about 86 percent would be reimbursable by the project beneficiaries, including \$73,905,000 by the water supply contractors, \$76,400 by the fish and wildlife sponsor, and \$159,000 by the recreation sponsor. Nonreimbursable investment costs would be \$10,764,600. The annual costs, including \$441,300 in annual operation, maintenance and replacement costs, would be \$5,793,600. The cost of municipal and industrial water computed at 5.116 percent interest for 50 years would be \$75.43 per acre-foot, or 23 cents per 1,000 gallons delivered at Atoka Reservoir.

Annual dollar benefits for plan D is estimated to be \$7,145,600 which includes \$6,797,000 for municipal and industrial water supply, \$106,000 for flood control, \$177,000 for recreation, and \$65,000 for fish and wildlife. The annual benefits would exceed the annual costs by \$1,352,000. This would translate to a benefit-cost ratio of 1.2 to 1.0.

That concludes our discussion of plan D. Now I will discuss the other alternatives and how they differ from plan D.

Plan A proposes that unallocated waters from Clayton reservoir, now being constructed by the Corps of Engineers, be used to supply Oklahoma City and Atoka County with M&I water. Clayton dam will be on Jackfork Creek a short distance above its confluence with the Kiamichi River and about 3 miles north of the city of Clayton.

About 60,000 acre-feet of water annually could be released from Clayton reservoir into the Kiamichi River to flow to a point about 39 miles downstream where a pumping plant would be located. That plant would lift the water into a regulating reservoir and then into a pipeline to carry it by gravity flow to Atoka reservoir. A bifurcation structure would be built at Atoka reservoir which could either divert the water into the reservoir or divert it directly into the existing pipeline to Oklahoma City and the city of Atoka.

The total construction cost of pipeline facilities including interest during construction is estimated to be \$74,659,000. Adding operation and maintenance costs and a reservoir storage cost results in a total cost of about 24 cents per 1,000 gallons for water delivered at Atoka Reservoir.

Annual dollar benefits for plan A is estimated to be \$6,797,000 and annual costs are estimated to be \$5,168,000 for a benefit cost ratio of 1.3 to 1.0.

Plan B proposes a dam and reservoir on McGee Creek at the same site and same size as plan D. The major difference is that plan B would not provide for a natural scenic wildlife-recreation area.

The total construction cost of project facilities including interest during construction is estimated to be \$79,625,000. Including operation and maintenance costs, the cost of untreated water delivered to Atoka Reservoir would be about 23 cents per 1000 gallons.

Annual dollar benefits are estimated to be \$7,055,400 and annual costs are estimated to be \$5,333,800 for a benefit cost ratio of 1.3 to 1.0.

Plan C dam and reservoir are identical to plan D in location and size, but would have slightly different environmental quality features.

Plan C would include a natural scenic recreation area with 12,300 acres adjacent to McGee Creek preserved in its natural state instead of 8,900 acres in plan D. Plan C would also include the Potapo Creek wildlife management area of 10,000 acres, and a fishing corridor below the dam extending 4.7 miles in length and 100 feet on both sides of the Creek.

The total construction cost of project facilities including interest during construction is estimated to be \$90,445,000. Including project operation and maintenance costs the cost of untreated water delivered to Atoka Reservoir would be about 23 cents per 1,000 gallons.

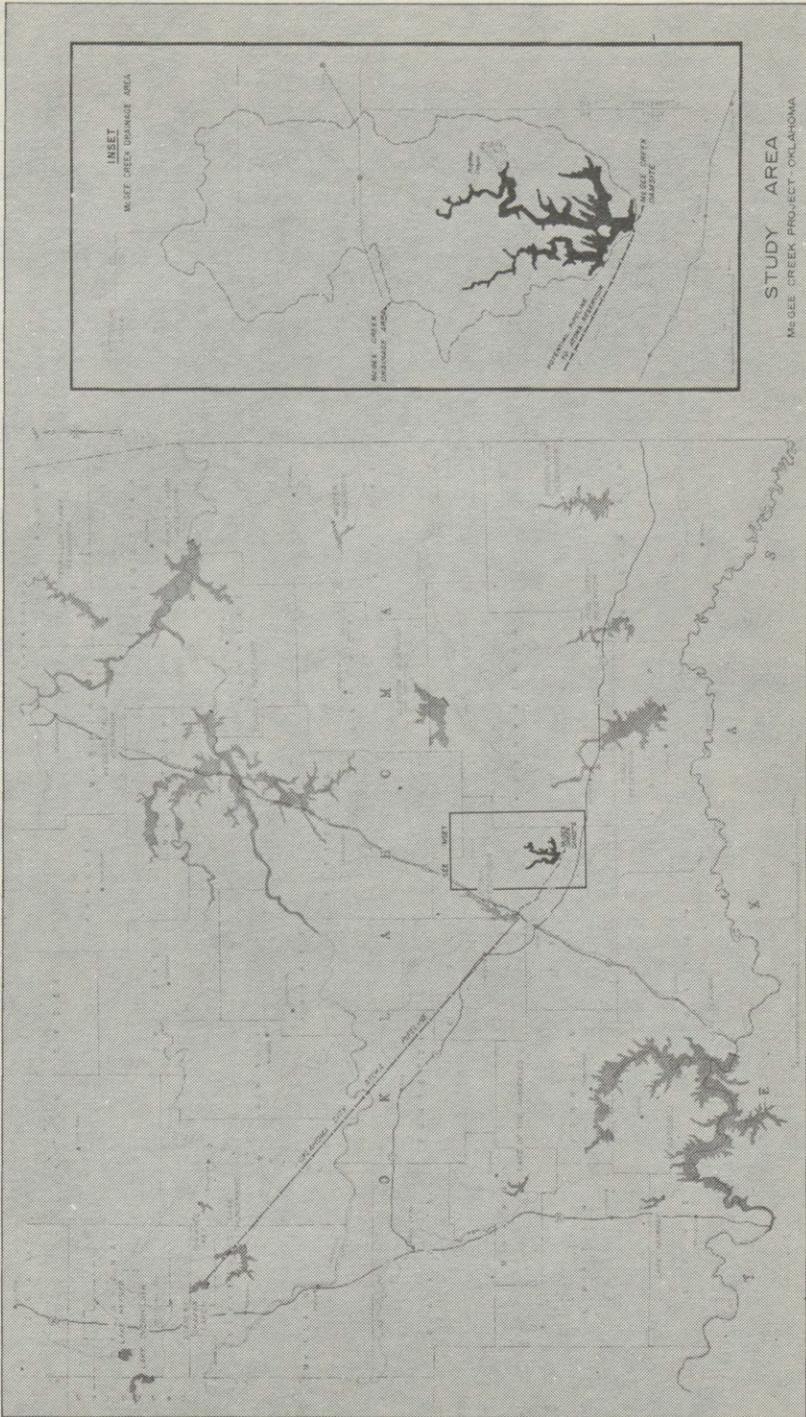
Annual dollar benefits are estimated to be \$7,145,600 and annual costs are estimated to be \$6,008,600 for a benefit cost ratio of 1.2 to 1.0.

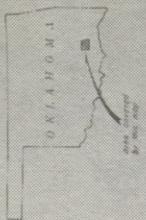
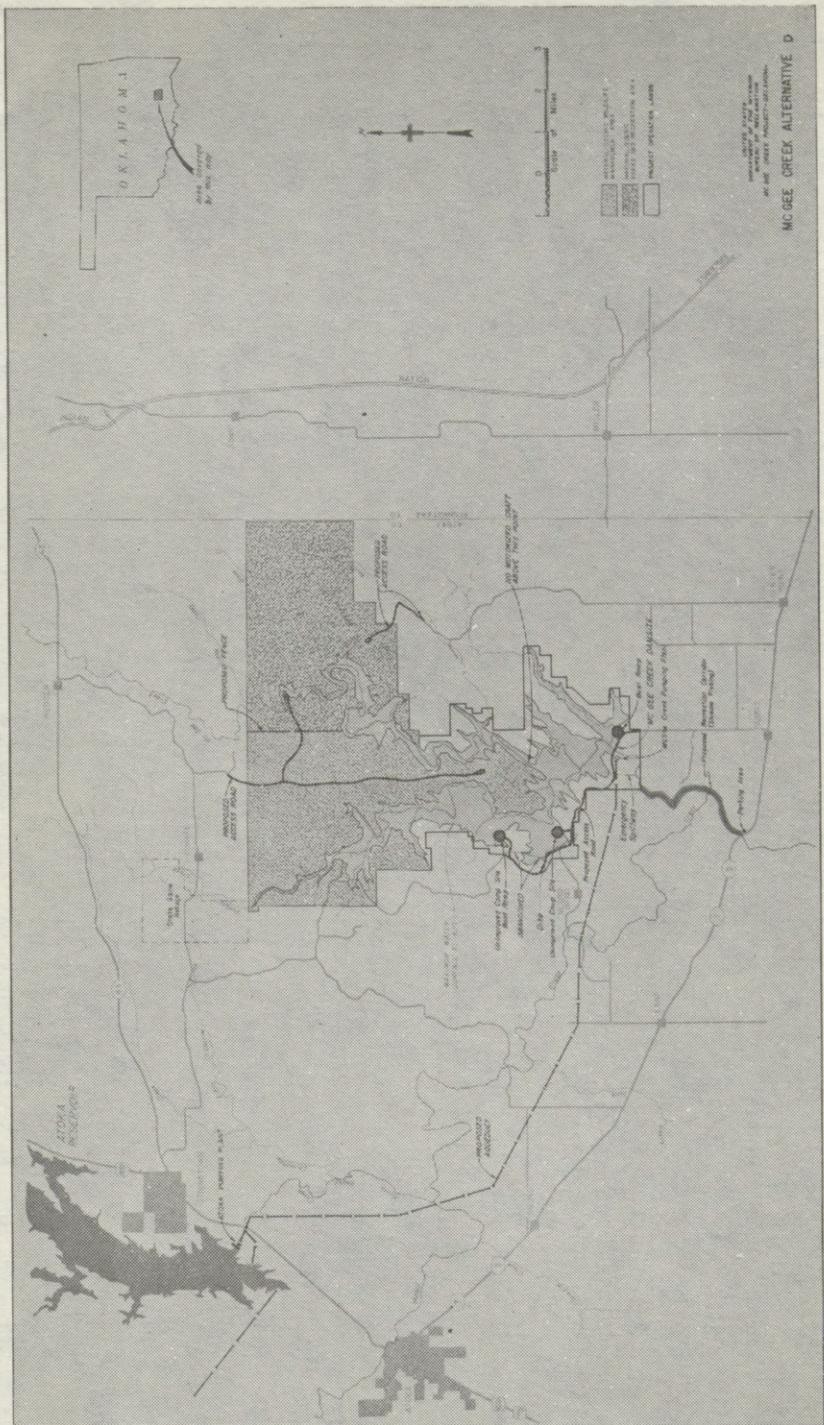
Mr. Chairman, that concludes our statement. We would be happy to answer any questions that the committee might have.

COST COMPARISONS ON MCGEE CREEK, PLAN D

[Dollars in thousands]

	July 1975 cost	January 1976 cost
Dam and reservoir:		
Dam and dike embankment.....	\$13,750	\$14,341
Spillway.....	3,750	4,121
River outlet works.....	12,000	13,459
M. & I. outlet works.....	2,500	2,812
Clearing.....	1,204	1,254
Access roads.....	599	649
Relocations.....	358	388
Fencing.....	176	184
McGee Creek pumping plant.....	4,088	4,258
Pumping plant, switchyard, and transmission lines.....	160	166
McGee Creek to Atoka Reservoir pipeline.....	26,300	27,195
Permanent operating facilities:		
Structures and improvements.....	157	162
Tools and equipment.....	131	137
Hydraulic instrumentation.....	75	78
O. & M. housing.....	55	56
Land and rights:		
Dam, dike, and reservoir.....	3,194	3,498
Pipeline.....	46	51
Fish and wildlife mitigation:		
Land and rights.....	665	730
Structures, roads, etc.....	70	75
Subtotal construction.....	69,278	73,614
Specific recreation costs.....	1,457	1,521
Specific fish and wildlife costs.....	285	297
Archeological survey and salvage.....	800	840
Scenic area:		
Right-of-way wildlife and recreation.....	4,850	5,312
Fencing.....	210	219
Access roads.....	1,326	1,436
Subtotal scenic area costs.....	6,386	6,967
Total project construction costs.....	78,206	83,239





- PROJECT AREA
- EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #1
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #2
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #3
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #4
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #5
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #6
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #7
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #8
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #9
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #10
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #11
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #12
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #13
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #14
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #15
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #16
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #17
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #18
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #19
- Mc GEE CREEK DAM #20

Mc GEE CREEK ALTERNATIVE D
 PREPARED BY THE
 BUREAU OF REVENUE AND
 TAXATION
 1988

Senator BARTLETT. The next witness is Mr. Terry Thurman, chief engineer, Stream Water Division, Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

STATEMENT OF TERRY THURMAN, CHIEF ENGINEER, STREAM WATER DIVISION, OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Mr. THURMAN. Senator Bartlett, thank you for allowing us to be present here.

Senator BARTLETT. We are very pleased to have you.

Mr. THURMAN. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board has been working with the Oklahoma City area and the Atoka County area, and have the following statement.

The McGee Creek has long been recognized as a potential water supply source for central and southern Oklahoma. Oklahoma City became interested in McGee Creek water to supply the growing municipal and industrial demands of the flourishing city as early as 1954.

In 1967, the Oklahoma City Municipal Authority engaged an independent consulting firm to study Oklahoma City's future sources of water supply. A report prepared by the firm proposed that McGee Creek serve as a part of the city's long-term water supply.

Further discussion regarding the potential McGee Creek site took place early in 1973. At this time, the mayor of Oklahoma City in cooperation with the Southern Oklahoma Development Authority recognized the need to build McGee Creek Reservoir for optimum capacity in order that future local needs as well as those needs of Oklahoma City could be met.

In June of 1973, hearings were held to discuss authorization of McGee Creek for study by the Bureau of Reclamation. At this time the Oklahoma Water Resources Board requested that the Congress direct the Bureau of Reclamation to study the water supply of McGee Creek, first for the area of origin in Atoka County, and then for other interests outside the stream system. Local legislators and the Governor of Oklahoma added their support to the study at this time.

Congressional action related to this water source came in September 1973, when the House authorized the study of McGee Creek. Later in October, the Senate authorized a feasibility study of McGee Creek by the Bureau of Reclamation.

In March of 1974, the investigation of McGee Creek was initiated. During May of 1974, a field trip to the study area was made by representatives of various local, State and Federal agencies and private concerns. The purpose of the trip was to introduce those involved to the study area and to determine necessary input into the study by each concern.

A public meeting in Atoka to discuss the study with local residents was held on September 26, 1974. Fifty-two people attended the meeting, and those attending unanimously supported the construction of the project for optimum development.

Plan formulation teams were then formed, and following the public meeting, tasks were assigned to each entity having input into the study. During the next years, all tasks were completed, and results of task force input are part of the interim report.

The last public hearing on the proposed site was held in Atoka on February 24, 1976.

Water from McGee Creek for municipal and industrial water supply has been highly sought after. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board has issued the following water rights for water supply storage in McGee Creek Reservoir: City of Oklahoma City, 40,000 acre-feet annually; city of Atoka, 8,000 acre-feet annually; County of Atoka, 8,000 acre-feet annually; and Southern Oklahoma Development Trust, 4,000 acre-feet of water annually.

All four groups possess the capability to enter into repayment contracts for water supply in the McGee Creek Reservoir site.

Demand for water to supply Oklahoma is increasing steadily. Oklahoma City's present usage, based on last year's figures, is 70,000 acre-feet per year. The present supply of 91,000 acre-feet annually from existing sources should meet the needs until 1983 to 1985. At this time an additional source of water supply will be required for Oklahoma City.

Local need for McGee Creek water is also a prime consideration. Presently, Atoka and Atoka County rely on water supply from Atoka Reservoir, Muddy Boggy Creek and area ground water. To meet projected future needs of the area, however, an additional water supply source will be necessary.

Further, the potential McGee Creek Reservoir appears in the overall comprehensive water plan now under preparation by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. In the plan, McGee Creek will be vitally important to serve the near-term water supply needs of central and southern Oklahoma until the interconnected statewide water supply system is constructed.

After consideration of the above mentioned water needs and requirements of central and southern Oklahoma, both now and in the future, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board respectfully requests that the Subcommittee on Energy Research and Water Resources to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs initiate procedures to ask the Congress of the United States to immediately authorize for construction and provide construction funding for the McGee Creek Project, Atoka County, Okla., as a Federal project for the purposes of municipal water supplies, industrial water supplies, flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife, and other beneficial uses.

I brought with me also a resolution from the members of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and I also wish to present that resolution at this time.

That is the text that I have prepared.

Senator BARTLET. Mr. Thurman, thank you very much.

You referred to the resolution that was passed by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. I have that here, and I ask for it to be included in the record.

[The resolution follows:]

RESOLUTION

Whereas, it has come to the attention of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board that there is an urgent need for development of additional water supplies for municipal and industrial purposes and other beneficial uses in certain areas of central and southern Oklahoma;

Whereas, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board in its regular monthly meeting on January 8, 1974, did approve a withdrawal by the Bureau of Reclamation in the amount of 60,000 acre-feet of water annually from McGee Creek, Atoka County, Oklahoma, to be allocated to the McGee Creek Project;

Whereas, water rights have been applied for and water permits have been granted by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board from water supply storage in the proposed McGee Creek Reservoir to the City of Oklahoma City in the amount of 40,000 acre-feet of water annually; the City of Atoka in the amount of 8,000 acre-feet of water annually; the County of Atoka in the amount of 8,000 acre-feet of water annually; and the Southern Oklahoma Development Trust in the amount of 4,000 acre-feet of water annually; and

Whereas, the City of Oklahoma City, the City of Atoka, the County of Atoka, and the Southern Oklahoma Development Trust all possess the capability to enter into repayment contracts for water supply storage in the proposed McGee Creek Reservoir Site; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Oklahoma Water Resources Board hereby respectfully requests that the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Senate Public Works Committee initiate procedures to ask the Congress of the United States to authorize for construction and provide construction funding for the McGee Creek Project, Atoka County, Oklahoma, as a Federal Project for the purposes of flood control, water supplies for municipal and industrial entities, recreation, fish and wildlife, and other beneficial uses.

Adopted this 8th day of June, 1976.

GERALD E. BORELLI,

Chairman, Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

Attest:

L. L. MALES, SECRETARY.

(SEAL)

Senator BARTLETT. I assume that Mr. Nelson is going to support this project?

Mr. THURMAN. Yes, Senator Bartlett. I work for Mr. Nelson, and he was not able to be here, so he sent me to take his place.

Senator BARTLETT. Well, I understood, and we are happy to have you.

I have one question on your testimony. You said that those attending the public meeting in Atoka, 52 people, unanimously supported the construction of the project for optimum development.

That is as strong a support as is possible. Do you know of any opposition?

Mr. THURMAN. I know of no opposition. I was not at that meeting. Some of our staff were, and they assured me that there was no opposition for the full development of the project.

Senator BARTLETT. Mr. Thurman, thank you very much, and thank Mr. Nelson for us. We appreciate your being here.

Mr. THURMAN. Thank you, Senator Bartlett.

Senator BARTLETT. Senator Bellmon is here. Senator Bellmon is recognized.

STATEMENT OF HON. HENRY BELLMON, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Senator BELLMON. Thank you, my colleague from Oklahoma. It is a pleasure for me to appear today for the purpose of offering testimony on two bills before the committee which are of great importance to the State of Oklahoma.

The first bill, S. 2194, which Senator Bartlett and I had jointly cosponsored, would authorize the Secretary of Interior to construct, operate and maintain the McGee Creek project in southeastern Oklahoma.

The other measure, H.R. 6622, which has already been approved by the House of Representatives, would provide for the repair of the Del City aqueduct, which is a feature of the Norman, Okla., Federal reclamation project.

Both projects are essential to our State's goal of achieving an adequate and safe water supply for the future.

Mr. Chairman, let me begin by discussing the McGee Creek project. As you know, this project is intended to provide dependable municipal and industrial water supplies for Oklahoma City, the city of Atoka, and Atoka County, and to the Southern Oklahoma Development Association.

Other purposes of the project include recreation, flood control, and fish and wildlife enhancement.

Mr. Chairman, as you are undoubtedly aware, the Bureau of Reclamation has recently completed an interim report on the McGee Creek project, and this report shows that the McGee Creek project is a practical surface water development that would clearly satisfy the short-term needs of Oklahoma City, and the long-term needs of Atoka County in meeting their municipal and industrial water requirements.

In addition, this report shows that this project would satisfy the need to preserve and manage the wilderness-type area surrounding the McGee Creek Reservoir site.

In view of the recommendations made in this report, I would encourage the committee to give careful consideration to the report and to the conclusions derived by the Bureau of Reclamation in assessing the McGee Creek project.

In addition to the Bureau support for this project, it is important that the committee recognize the local support for the McGee Creek project which exists, as I am sure will be indicated today by other witnesses.

The McGee Creek project is the only project that I have been aware of over the past several years that is totally free of opposition from local citizens. This is a very popular project, and I believe that adds a great deal to its credibility.

In short, the support of this project throughout the State of Oklahoma is unquestioned. With that in mind, I would urge the committee to approve S. 2194 at the earliest possible date so that positive action can be taken by the Senate during this session of Congress.

Mr. Chairman, the other measure before this committee today is H.R. 6622, which would authorize the repair of the Del City aqueduct.

As the chairman is aware, there is a very severe problem which exists with the Del City aqueduct, and I feel that H.R. 6622 addresses this problem in a reliable and appropriate fashion.

Del City is a member of the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District, receives its water supply from Lake Thunderbird which was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation.

The problem that exists with the Del City aqueduct is that numerous breaks and leaks have occurred within the pipeline since the completion of the project. To date, 84 leaks have been discovered and repaired on this pipeline.

While the cost of repairs on the Del City aqueduct has been attended to by the Bureau of Reclamation, the leaks have been repaired by em-

ployees of the conservancy district with the Bureau reimbursing the district intermittently throughout the year.

The purpose of H.R. 6622 is to place the reimbursement of these repairs on an annual basis by simply allowing the cost of repairs made during the year as a credit against the annual repayment installment due by the Master Conservancy District to the United States.

This procedure would save much needless paperwork for both the Bureau of Reclamation, as well as for the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District.

I support the provisions of this bill wholeheartedly, Mr. Chairman, and would encourage the committee to act favorably in reporting this measure to the Senate for consideration so that we may concur with the action already taken by the House of Representatives in their approval of H.R. 6622 last October.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee. I hope that the committee will act favorably in reporting these two measures to the Senate for early consideration.

Senator BARTLETT. I would say to my colleague from Oklahoma that I know the people in our State are very appreciative of your support of both projects and your sponsorship of Senate bill 2194.

You stress the unanimous support for the McGee Creek project and the feasibility of the Del City aqueduct. Both of these projects, as you pointed out very clearly, are cost effective, very beneficial to the citizens of our state now and in the future.

I know you are very busy, and I thank you very much for your statement.

Senator BELLMON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let me say, as you well know, in Oklahoma, water development projects are generally very popular and are well supported, probably because our State, unlike some others, realizes the need for developing our water resources.

And I feel that when we have a project that has the high cost-benefit ratio of McGee Creek, plus the widespread popular support, that Congress would be well advised to go ahead and fund it, and this would help the development of the water resources which are so necessary to the continued progress of this country.

So I appreciate the opportunity to testify this morning and hope that the bill will be reported favorably.

Senator BARTLETT. You just happen to be from the best State in the 50. Thank you very much.

Senator BELLMON. Thank you.

Senator BARTLETT. We have a group headed up by Mr. Orlie Boehler, Southern Oklahoma Development Association. With him are Buster Hight representing the city of Atoka. Mr. W. O. Young, representing the Southern Oklahoma Development Trust, and Mr. John Allen, representing the Southern Oklahoma Development Association.

Will those four gentlemen please take their positions at the table.

I would say to the four of you that your statements will be included in full in the record, and you may proceed as you may wish. You may read the statement or summarize it.

We will hear all four statements.

STATEMENT OF BUSTER HIGHT, REPRESENTING THE CITY OF ATOKA AND ATOKA COUNTY, OKLA.; W. O. YOUNG, REPRESENTING THE SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT TRUST; JOHN ALLEN, REPRESENTING THE SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION; AND ORLIE J. BOEHLER, REPRESENTING THE SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Mr. HIGHT. Mr. Chairman, my name is Buster Hight. I am here representing the city of Atoka and Atoka County.

If you will bear with me, I am having a little eye problem, and I will read part of it.

I not only have been in private business in Atoka County until my retirement, but I have also been involved in a constant effort to develop and further the overall economy and general living conditions of Atoka County.

Mr. Chairman, Atoka County has been somewhat notorious for having one of the highest unemployment rates in the State of Oklahoma. We have made large inroads into the problem of developing more industrial jobs and a better economic base for Atoka County; however, our unemployment rate is still very high.

The unemployment rate in the month of April this year was running as high as 17.1 percent. We have in the past 6 years increased our overall median family income in Atoka County, but it is still quite low and has not risen dramatically in the past 6 years from the 1970 median income of \$4,836 per family.

Mr. Chairman, our county has traditionally been an agriculture county, but like most other southern Oklahoma counties, it has changed over from a traditional row crop agricultural economy to one of larger land holdings which concentrated particularly on cattle and small feed grain.

With the coming of the changeover from row crop to a different type of agriculture, many of our people have been released from their traditional jobs in agriculture and find there were no more jobs locally, or they had to leave for the larger cities to find jobs.

We do not have a long history of industrial development in Atoka County; however, those industrial jobs that we do have, have recently come about through our local efforts and through the efforts of our regional planning and development organization.

Traditionally, the few industrial jobs that we have had have come from the jobs provided by the Federal Government at the U.S. Naval Depot in McAlester. As is the case of all Federal installations, our industrial jobs rise and fall based on the amount of work that is generated through that installation.

In 1969, our people formed the Atoka County Industrial Authority, of which I am an original member. We have been working to develop Atoka and Atoka County in the areas of industrial development and have had some success.

We now have several small companies providing good paying industrial jobs. One of our most successful efforts was that of securing a furniture plant owned and operated by the Ethan Allen Corp. The factor presently provides much needed secure industrial jobs.

We have one major problem that we had in landing this company. That was the fact that we did not have industrial water in Atoka City or Atoka County. Not only did we not have industrial water, we also have very little water for municipal use.

We have been able to work out this problem by a joint agreement between the city of Atoka, the county of Atoka, and the city of Oklahoma City, who owns Atoka Reservoir.

The city of Atoka and the Atoka County Rural Water System have an agreement to use 2 million gallons of water per day out of Atoka Reservoir. However, at the present time, due to the enormous expansion of the rural water system in Atoka County, we do not have enough water for any further industrial or municipal expansion.

At the present time, the city of Atoka does not have an existing water right on any water source except that on McGee Creek. If this project is built, Atoka City and Atoka County will have 16,000 acre-feet of water per year.

We have seen a drastic change of land use come to Atoka County and southeastern Oklahoma. Many of the small landowners have been bought by several major landholding corporations. Those major landholding corporations are converting traditional woodland over to pasture land at the rate of 60,000 acres per year.

The woodlands of Atoka County have always been considered as a birthright by the citizens of Atoka County, particularly in their traditional outdoor pursuits of hunting, fishing, and camping.

However, with the advent of large land ownership and the changing over of land use patterns from traditional woodlands to that of pastures, our people are losing those woodlands that they have used prior to statehood.

In addition, the changing over of land use is not only changing the traditional patterns of the county, but much of that land is being closed to local people. Many of the lands which they have been accustomed to using for their outdoor pursuits are now fenced.

And for those of you who are not familiar with our area, I would like to make you aware that the area in which the McGee Creek Reservoir will be built is one of the most beautiful and unique natural areas found anywhere in the southwestern United States.

One of the major areas within the McGee Creek project is an area called the Bugaboo Canyon. Bugaboo Canyon takes in the upper part of the McGee Creek watershed and is an area that has never been used for any development purpose with the exception of some minor logging efforts back in the 1920's and early 1930's.

The area is totally untouched and presently is one of the few areas in Oklahoma or the southwestern part of the United States that has been untouched and is still in its native natural state.

Those that have been in the area and are familiar with it, will attest that it is truly one of the few unique natural areas left in the southwestern United States.

It is because of the natural uniqueness of this area, along with the need for industrial and municipal water, that we have put together what we think is one of the most unique development projects ever devised.

We have taken into account a natural area, as well as a drastic change in land use patterns, the need for recreation for our local people, the uniqueness of the area, as well as land requirements that will be needed to develop the reservoir.

We have coupled both industrial and municipal water needs as well as outdoor recreational and environmental needs and made them compatible. It is our hope that not only will we be able to provide 60,000 acre-feet of water per year for municipal and industrial use, but also provide one of the most unusual recreational experiences presently thought available in the United States.

The plan for the project has come about because of three things: strong local interest and support for this project, particularly by all segments of the society within Atoka County, not only those who are preservationists and traditionalists, but also those that want industrial jobs and related jobs coming from recreational industry growth; second, a strong regional effort by elected officials in southern Oklahoma; and third, a strong commitment by State and Federal agencies who have by legal or legislative mandate an interest in this project.

Further, it can be pointed out that the lands that will be inundated by the waters of the reservoir themselves are extremely marginal lands and contribute only a very minor part to the overall agricultural economy of Atoka County.

It is our intent that not only will we have an area set aside for additional outdoor recreation, but also we will have set aside an area of over 10,000 acres within the Bugaboo Canyon area that will be set aside as a natural preserve and recreation area that will insure maintenance of the pristine qualities of the area and also provide a unique recreational experience not only for those living in Atoka County, but those living within Oklahoma and the southwest region of the United States.

I would be remiss if I did not say that we also look forward to the construction jobs that will be made available to our local people during the project construction period. We also look forward to those permanent jobs that will be created due to the recreational areas that are proposed for development.

Mr. Chairman, I have watched Atoka County struggle with its economic problems for many, many years, and I have been involved in almost every kind of program imaginable to help the community and help the county grow and sustain itself.

We have been a poor county, but we have been rich in having one of the most beautiful and potentially developmental areas in Oklahoma.

The McGee Creek Reservoir and Bugaboo Canyon Area project is one of the largest most worthwhile, far-ranging programs that I have seen in my 70 years of living in Atoka County. I can tell you that the local people and their elected officials strongly support this project for the many reasons which I have already mentioned.

We have worked long and hard to see this project come about. We have worked in full cooperation with many people at many levels of Government to make this project a success.

Senator BARTLETT. Thank you, Mr. Hight, for your most excellent testimony. You certainly have provided a very accurate and in-depth

picture of the multipurpose aspects of the projects, the economic benefits to the area in the form of reduced unemployment, the benefits of recreation of many kinds, the water supply benefits for industry and municipal use, and preservation of undisturbed areas.

I think this is excellent testimony, and I would just ask you one question about the support which you stress throughout. Have you found in Atoka County the support for the entire project to be strong?

Mr. HIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I have attended every meeting the Bureau has had, and 10 years before that when some other agency had it, and I have gone to a lot of Atoka meetings, and we have not had one protest, we have not had one guy to raise his voice.

We have had one or two come up and say, "I won't take that for my land," because he didn't know what he was going to get for it, but they were small landowners.

But to bring you up to date——

Senator BARTLETT. You are saying you have not had anybody object?

Mr. HIGHT. Not one. The organizations like the Lions Club and the people like that have met in regular session and passed resolutions encouraging the project. And I think you have a letter there that the county commissioners wrote.

I started to get in the car downtown, and one of the ministers of one of the largest churches said, "If you are going to that hearing, tell them what our group wants. Tell them we will do anything, just get it done."

And one other thing, Senator, if no one else has said it or does, this plan D is the one we want. That is the one in our regular meeting, that is the one we agreed on.

Thank you, Senator.

Senator BARTLETT. Thank you for very fine testimony, and I think it is most impressive that there has not been one person voicing objection to the project.

We do have the letter from the commissioners that you referred to, and that will be placed in the record.

[The letter from the Board of County Commissioners of Atoka County, Okla. follows:]

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
ATOKA COUNTY, ATOKA, OKLA., June 8, 1976.

Re: Hearing McGee Creek Reservoir, June 17, 1976, 9:45 a.m.

HON. DEWEY BARTLETT,
U.S. Senator,
Old Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: The Board of County Commissioners of Atoka County would like to express our feelings concerning the proposed McGee Creek Reservoir in Atoka County. Mr. Buster Hight, who is present at the hearing today, has agreed to deliver this letter to you personally.

Senator Bartlett, the Board of County Commissioners believe that construction of the McGee Creek Reservoir would not only guarantee the city of Atoka sufficient water for years to come, including any Industrial needs but since Atoka County is now completely covered by rural water districts, it would also insure all the water needed by the county of Atoka. The benefits to the economy in this county and the surrounding area certainly cannot be over emphasized.

We appreciate your efforts in this project and stand ready to assist you in this anyway needed.

Very truly yours,

DON LOFTIS, *Chairman.*
MUNROE COCHRAN, *Member.*
JOE TISDALE, *Member.*

Senator BARTLETT. Mr. Boehler, who will be next?

Mr. BOEHLER. Mr. Young, representing the Southern Oklahoma Trust.

**STATEMENT OF W. O. YOUNG, DURANT, OKLA., REPRESENTING
THE SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Chairman, my name is Bill Young, and I am a resident of Durant, Okla. I presently am serving as the chairman of the Southern Oklahoma Development Trust.

The Southern Oklahoma Development Trust was created by the Southern Oklahoma Development Association, which encompasses the 10 south-central counties of Oklahoma.

The Southern Oklahoma Development Association is a local economic development organization formed initially under the 1965 Economic Development Act and was the first economic development district in the United States founded and formed by local people.

Not only was it the first regional economic development area in the United States, but also one of the first organizations of its type to create a developmental trust for the development of overall economic development through regionwide programs.

The Southern Oklahoma Development Trust's purpose is to promote the development of industry as well as facilities within and without the territorial limits of the Southern Oklahoma Development Association.

The trust is also to assist in providing industrial employment and activities which benefit and strengthen the culture and economy of the cities and counties within Southern Oklahoma.

The Southern Oklahoma Development Trust is one of the four entities holding water rights in the McGee Creek Watershed. When the water rights were divided between the cities of Oklahoma City and Atoka, as well as Atoka County, there remained 4,000 acre-feet of unappropriated water in the McGee watershed.

It was at this point that the Southern Oklahoma Development Trust, acting in behalf of Atoka City and Atoka County, as well as cities and towns surrounding Atoka County and Atoka City, made application for those remaining 4,000 acre-feet.

I have been involved in economic development in my home county of Bryan County for the past 17 years. I have served not only as the chairman of the Southern Oklahoma Development Trust, but also have served on the industrial development team of the chamber of commerce in Durant.

I have been involved in these past years in the various aspects that relate to the problems which we face in southern Oklahoma relating to industrial and economic development.

The Southern Oklahoma Development Trust, because of its belief that it must support any and all worthwhile local industrial and economic development projects in southern Oklahoma has been totally committed to the development of the McGee Creek project.

As Mr. Hight has told you, Atoka County has traditionally been one of high unemployment and also correspondent high underemployment. I have watched Atoka and Atoka County struggle with these problems for many years.

They have always been short of one primary resource in Atoka County, and that has been industrial and municipal water. I have watched their efforts over these many years and have seen them lose several industries because the city and county did not have the adequate water supply that was necessary, not only for the industries which they sought, but also for the correspondent growth that would occur with that industrial growth.

The McGee Creek project is one which we are very proud to be a part of because not only will it assist Atoka County in meeting its primary problems of the need for development of industrial jobs and the development of a strong municipal water supply, but it will also provide a unique recreational experience for southern Oklahoma in addition to having a large economic impact upon the surrounding counties.

Further, it will provide one of the most unique public works projects developed in the United States. The McGee Creek project takes the best of water resource development and the best of environmental conservation and puts them together into a sound, well conceived industrial, municipal and recreational project. Rather than being a project that brings about dissension, which has been traditional between preservationists and developers, it puts together the best of both concepts.

The project not only has strong local support, but at no place in time has there been one serious negative response to the project from any group exposed to or involved in the project. This you would agree, Mr. Chairman, is an extremely unusual situation.

This is our hope that the project itself will not only provide, as Mr. Hight has noted, the industrial development job potential that has been traditionally needed due to the lack of industrial water in Atoka County, but also, as Mr. Hight has indicated, provide long-term jobs, not only of an industrial type, but also jobs based on long-range goal of recreational development in eastern Atoka County.

The project lies between two major regional arterial highways, and because of a potential market area of several million people found within the radius of the project area, it is hoped that recreational job development coupled with influx of Federal funds and private development capital will provide a situation that will reverse traditional high unemployment among Atoka County residents.

Another thing that makes this project so special is that for the first time in some 20 years the city of Oklahoma City and the local people in Atoka County and southern Oklahoman, 140 miles away, are working together on a joint development project that will not only benefit the local people and the general economy of southern Oklahoma, but also will benefit the large metropolitan area served by the city of Okla-

homa City who will provide to that metropolitan area water that will meet the city's needs into the 1990's. This kind of interregional cooperation is extremely rare.

This cooperation, coupled with the fact that Oklahoma City, Atoka, Atoka County, and our trust have agreed to form an administrative body that will operate and maintain the project also makes for an extremely unusual, but progressive, type of development effort within the State of Oklahoma.

No doubt this project will serve as a model for other Federal projects that this committee finds themselves involved with.

We urge you to support this project to its fullest extent and to help us develop what we know to be one of the best public works projects that has ever been conceived.

This is true because the project involved all levels of government and does, in fact, reflect the needs and the desires of the local people of not only Atoka, Atoka County, and Oklahoma City, but also those people in the surrounding areas of southern Oklahoma who will directly and indirectly benefit from the project.

Senator BARTLETT. Mr. Young, your testimony is excellent. It combines the values of this project in a way that I think will surprise many people, particularly in this part of the country. You emphasized the combining of industry and jobs and recreation and the preservation of the environment together in one effort.

I think this is the way Oklahomans view the development of their water resources, the preservation of their water resources for many benefits, and not just one particular feature.

In addition, you stressed very impressively the cooperation between the rural parts of the State, the smaller communities, along with Oklahoma City so that benefits will occur over a large area of the State for supplies of municipal water.

Could you give me some idea of the communities in southern Oklahoma that will be benefited by this water in addition to Atoka County and Oklahoma?

Mr. YOUNG. I think it is conceivable, Senator, that any community within, oh, several hundred miles could benefit, but in our particular area certainly any and all of them within southern and south-central Oklahoma.

Senator BARTLETT. Did you believe that Durant and other communities will benefit from this?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes, sir, it certainly could.

Senator BARTLETT. The large area from the very southern border of the State on up into the central part of the State to Oklahoma City.

Mr. YOUNG. Certainly, I believe so.

I would add, you asked the other people about the question about any opposition.

Senator BARTLETT. Yes; I am interested in that.

Mr. YOUNG. I think it would be presumptuous of me to say that there is none anywhere because I do not know absolutely, but I certainly do not know of any in our area or any other part of the State, really and truly, that is in opposition to this project.

Senator BARTLETT. Mr. Young, I think that is very convincing testimony. If there was opposition in your area, I think you would know.

Mr. YOUNG. I feel like I would know something about it.

Mr. BOEHLER. Senator, Mr. Allen.
 Senator BARTLETT. Mr. Allen.

**STATEMENT OF JOHN ALLEN, MADILL, OKLA., REPRESENTING THE
 SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, my name is John Allen. I live in Madill, Okla., Marshall County.

I am currently the secretary-treasurer of the Southern Oklahoma Development Association and represent the Board of County Commissioners of Marshall County on the association's board of directors, as well as represent Marshall County on the executive committee of the association.

I am here testifying today in behalf of Mr. Clarence Cochran, chairman of the Southern Oklahoma Development Association, who due to personal reasons, could not be with us today.

I choose to summarize my statement and point out the high points.

The McGee Creek project brings together some very unusual aspects in that it puts together the somewhat traditional dissimilar viewpoints of natural preservation and conservation and those of industrial development.

The project also is a model of intergovernmental cooperation of not only several State agencies and local governments involved, but also between the various Federal agencies who traditionally have not seen eye to eye in the overall development of the natural resources in the United States.

The Southern Oklahoma Development Association for the past 10 years has provided staff effort, not only in this project, but in all economic and industrial development programs that have been developed in Atoka and Atoka County.

Mr. Chairman, we have worked not only in behalf of the local people, but have served as a liaison and coordinating mechanism for our political leaders and the State and Federal agencies involved.

We have also provided liaison for all those interested citizens groups, both local and statewide that have interest in the project and who desire it to come to a successful completion due to its unique aspects and application, both environmentally and economically.

In conclusion, I would like to concur with the two previous gentlemen in saying that in Marshall County, in my area, I once again would be presumptuous if I said there was no opposition, but I can truthfully say I have heard none.

Senator BARTLETT. Mr. Allen, that is very impressive, and an excellent job of summarizing the very fine testimony of Mr. Clarence Cochran.

I think we should thank Mr. Cochran for his testimony, and I thank you for being here to deliver it and giving such a good summary.

You summarized the amount of local support, the interagency cooperation for the project, and the cooperation between the various water entities. This is very impressive.

I do agree with you that this is a very unique project serving every conceivable benefit for the people of the area. This covers a very broad area, and I think that is the reason why it has such broad support and no known opposition.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Allen follows:]

STATEMENT OF JOHN ALLEN, MADILL, OKLA., REPRESENTING THE SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Mr. Chairman, my name is John Allen. I live in Madill, Oklahoma, Marshall County. I am currently the Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Oklahoma Development Association and represent the Board of County Commissioners of Marshall County on the Association's Board of Directors, as well as represent Marshall County on the Executive Committee of the Association.

I am here testifying today in behalf of Mr. Clarence Cochran, Chairman of the Southern Oklahoma Development Association, who due to personal reasons, could not be with us today.

Mr. Chairman, you have heard Mr. Young and Mr. Hight discuss some of the more pertinent aspects of the development potential, both economically and industrially for Atoka County, the City of Atoka, the City of Oklahoma City and those surrounding areas of southern Oklahoma which will be impacted upon by McGee Creek Project.

Mr. Chairman, the potential and degree of the far-reaching impact of this project in southern Oklahoma and the State of Oklahoma itself, I feel are obvious. The McGee Creek Project brings together some very unusual aspects in that it puts together the somewhat traditional dissimilar viewpoints of natural preservation and conservation and those of industrial development. We are extremely proud of this project because it addresses major factors with which we are interested as an Association. The project first of all addresses the needs of industrial development in Atoka and Atoka County, and also addresses those preservation and conservation needs of southern Oklahoma which must be addressed and adhered to if we are going to meet the Association's goal of making southern Oklahoma a better place to live and work.

Because southern Oklahoma is physically changing so rapidly and because the traditional land patterns are changing so dramatically, this project in setting aside a unique environmental area along with a positive developmental source of water for the local people, provides a total development concept which to our knowledge has never been attempted, by either the Federal or State government, let alone, the local governments of southern Oklahoma. The economic impact of jobs, both related to construction and recreation, and related to businesses in southern Oklahoma and Atoka County in particular are obvious. This project, Mr. Chairman, will leave an everlasting impact on those who live and reside, not only in Oklahoma, but also in the southwest region of the United States. It will leave an everlasting impact because it concerns an extremely unusual natural and pristine area and develops a pure, easily usable, water source for both industrial and municipal uses, not only within the local county, but as far away as Oklahoma City, and central Oklahoma. The project also is a model of inter-governmental cooperation between not only several state agencies and the local governments, involved, but also between the various federal agencies who traditionally have not seen eye-to-eye in the overall development of natural resources in the United States. This project includes the best that those agencies have to offer and puts together a unique well-thought-out developmental plan that takes into account not only the local government's requirements but also the requirements of the local people, the land owners, the State of Oklahoma and the federal government and its agencies.

The Southern Oklahoma Development Association for the past ten years has provided staff effort, not only in this project, but in all economic and industrial development programs that have been developed in Atoka and Atoka County. In the past 3½ years, the Southern Oklahoma Development Association staff has assisted the City of Atoka and Atoka County in securing federal grants and programs in a project dollar amount of \$8,916,359. The McGee Creek Project is so much larger from the standpoint of dollar and public investment potential that when it is successfully brought to completion and is successfully in operation, will make our early developmental efforts in Atoka County seem quite small.

Further, this project is unique in that it puts together similar but diverse attitudes, needs, and requirements of the various water right holders and puts together the first interregional administrative body to administer a large public works project of this type. The fact that we can have resource development, conservation, and total utilization of this situation and all its aspects, makes

this project, we think, one of the most worthwhile developmental projects that we have ever had the pleasure of being involved in. Mr. Chairman, there is no person that has been introduced to this project that has not been excited by its magnitude and by its direct benefit for not only the people of Atoka, Atoka County, and Oklahoma City, but also all the residents of the area impacted upon by the project.

Mr. Chairman, we have worked not only in behalf of the local people, but have served as a liaison and coordinating mechanism for our political leaders, and the state, and federal, agencies involved. We have also provided liaison for all of those interested citizen groups both local and statewide that have interest in the project and who desire it to come to a successful completion due to its unique aspects and application, both environmentally and economically.

Senator BARTLETT. Mr. Boehler.

STATEMENT OF ORLIE J. BOEHLER, ARDMORE, OKLA., REPRESENTING THE SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Mr. BOEHLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to just take a few minutes to summarize for you. My name for the record is Orlie J. Boehler. I am an employee of the Southern Oklahoma Development Association. I have been with the association staff for some 9 years, 7 of which I have been executive director.

The staff, as Mr. Allen pointed out, over the last 10 years has worked in behalf of the local people on this project. However, we have also acted at the direction of not only the board of directors, but also the various agencies involved for the local entities to serve as the coordinating body at the local level and to provide the arms and legs, if you will, for this effort.

The gentlemen here have indicated to you some of the more succinct aspects of the project, particularly water quality, tourism, industrial growth, local support, and this sort of thing, the needs for the water and the needs for water for the new large rural water system that is now going into effect in Atoka County.

But also I think the thing that I would like to emphasize if I might, Senator, is the whole aspect that this project is a model of total cooperation. It is not only a model of cooperation among our State legislative leaders, our national legislative leaders, but also it is a model of cooperation between 25 State and Federal agencies. So that, I think, is very impressive.

In addition to 25 State and Federal agencies being involved in this effort, there has also been the involvement of people like the Oklahoma Wildlife Federation, the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers people.

In addition to that, we have an awfully good media support. We have had a lot of support by our papers, we have had outdoor writers involved, we have had the Tulsa World involved. We have done what we could do to get a statewide understanding of the project, particularly from the unique aspect of melding the two recreational environmental things with an industrial development aspect.

I think much of this project comes about based on a concept I think that the Congress passed in 1968 with the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act. And I think, sir, if that act has any meaning, then this project should surely come about in as quick a manner as possible.

I think that, too, sir, for all the verbiage that we have heard at the local level about cooperation and getting along and trying to make

everybody work from each level, up and down, I think this project should be funded. It, again, I think is a model of that kind of a thing.

But along with the cooperation of the agencies and the cooperation of the local people, and the cooperation of interregions, there is one more aspect that has not been addressed, and that is the involvement of the landowners.

I would like to stress that this is extremely unique in that where we started out with this project some 10 years ago, we had small land ownership parcels. We had many of them; we had well over 100 in the area. We have very few small landowners now. In fact, I think you can count the number of landowners on your fingers.

We have two major land corporations. They are clearing land to the tune of 200 acres a day. They have some 18 D-9 Cats sitting out there with chains between them, and they just go right through the country.

Now they are changing it over so fast that you would not know the country if you flew over it. In light of that, the two major landholding corporations understand that if they were to go in and ruin the watershed, and I mean ruin the watershed from the standpoint of taking off the natural trees and cover and thereby upsetting a relatively pure water source, they could cripple Atoka County immeasurably.

They are new to the county; they are new to the State. They do not want to be a party to that kind of destruction, and they do not want to be a party to that kind of a black mark, if you will, on their reputation.

They want to be good citizens in the county. We have been working with them now for 3 years. They have been very patient. Their bulldozers have sat still now for 18 months. They have not cleared past the line that you see on the map here, on any of those lines.

However, they are impatient. Hopefully, we can all, all of us here, give some kind of answer as soon as possible as to what is going to happen to the project because they do have a lot invested in the project.

So I think this is unique. Here we have an area that has gone from small landownership to a large landownership parcels, a large clearance operation. And now these people are cooperating to the best of their ability, holding off, if you will, waiting for us to move. And they sometimes have a hard time understanding how the gears of Government work, and the gears move slowly at times. But they have been very patient, and I know they will be expecting some sort of report from us here when we get back.

But this is something I wanted to mention, Senator.

Thank you.

Senator BARTLETT. Mr. Boehler, I think that is very important. I certainly agree with you that this project is a model of cooperation. Certainly here in Washington, it is very seldom that two Federal agencies can agree on anything or even agree to talk about one thing, let alone involve themselves with State or local agencies of government.

When you have 25 agencies which have cooperated fully on a project, you have achieved the goals of interagency cooperation. You have

thereby developed a very fine project as a result of all the contributions. This results in a project which obviously has much more to it than it otherwise would.

I think it is very impressive about the attitude of the landowners. I think you can tell them what Mr. Peck said, that he is going to make every effort to decrease the time and to bring about an earlier target date in 6 months and make it 1977 rather than 1978 when they report to Congress.

I think you can also report to the landowners and the people in the whole area that the entire delegation will be making every effort to pass this legislation in both the Senate, which we hope to do soon, and also have it passed in the House and become law.

I know that you and others have been working on it for a long time, and I am sure that your patience has been strained at different times. But I have reason to be optimistic, and at least assure you that we are going to give it every effort.

I do thank you for your testimony. It is excellent, as always, and it shows what an outstanding project this is. I could not express my appreciation more than just to say that you have done an outstanding job for the State of Oklahoma as well as your own areas.

Thank you very much.

Mr. BOEHLER. Thank you very much, Senator.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bohler follows:]

STATEMENT OF ORLIE J. BOEHLER, ARDMORE, OKLA., REPRESENTING THE
SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Mr. Chairman, my name is Orlie J. Bohler. I am an employee of the Southern Oklahoma Development Association, a council of local governments, and an economic development region within south-central Oklahoma. I have been an employee of the Southern Oklahoma Development Association for the past 9 years, 7 of which I have served as the executive director of the association staff. You have heard Mr. Allen, Mr. Young, and Mr. Hight speak of the need for and the reason behind the McGee Creek Reservoir project. The Staff of the association, at the direction of the board, and at the request of the various participants in the project, have acted as the local coordinator of the project, and have operated in the realm of day-to-day liaison between all interested parties, agencies, and project area landowners. Mr. Chairman, I would like to capsule for you the proposed project on McGee Creek in eastern Atoka County. We feel that the identification of the potential reservoir and dam site on McGee Creek is not only a needed project for municipal and industrial uses for the parties holding water rights to that project, but also it provides a unique developmental experience both from the standpoint of preservation, recreation, and economic development. The project has areas of distinct natural environment that are untouched by urbanization or physical development. Due to the natural untouched nature of the "Bugaboo Canyon" area, the project necessitates, not only the protection and development of the natural pristine areas surrounding "Bugaboo Canyon", but also the maintenance of the area is certain to maintain the overall high water quality of those waters flowing through the McGee Creek watershed.

Not only does the watershed provide a clean unpolluted water source for municipal and industrial purposes, but it also will create a stable economic base for a traditionally depressed area.

The development of this project will affect not only Atoka County, but all of Oklahoma, western Arkansas, north Texas, and secondary areas such as Kansas City and St. Louis. There is sufficient natural areas to create recreational and cultural interest to attract people from all over the nation. In addition to the economic growth that would be brought about by industrial jobs, and other related jobs created by long-term industrial job creation, the tourism industry would also be bolstered within the area. The tourism industry created by the

development of this proposal would also assist in reversing the economically depressed condition in Atoka County where there is presently a high unemployment rate and where the unemployment rate consistently runs above 10% of the participating labor force, and where according to a study by the Economics Department of Oklahoma State University, the nonparticipating available unemployment labor force is 30 percent.

The nation's ever-increasing amount of leisure time and urbanization have strongly influenced the desire for the need for outdoor recreation. The proposed development of McGee Creek Reservoir and the Bugaboo National Recreation Area will provide an extremely unusual recreational opportunity for many of our population. By the year 2000, our population in the United States will have doubled, and the demand for outdoor recreation will triple, this is according to a report of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission. Some states have reported an increase of as much as 25% growth each year in the tourism industry over the past three years. According to a survey made recently by one of our state governments an average of 100 tourists visiting each area each day over a one year period will mean to the economy income to support 300 people; and 100 new jobs.

The proposed project has strong, local support, and involvement and will supply good quality water for municipal and industrial needs as well as meeting local planning criteria and priority. In a regular meeting of the Atoka County Planning Committee, December 3, 1970, it was unanimously agreed that water was the number one priority need in Atoka County. This was thought to be true particularly if the county was to experience much needed economic, social and cultural growth. It was thought that a large supply of high quality water for municipal and rural residential use as well as a potential use for industry, irrigation, and recreation would offer Atoka its best chance for solving its high welfare, and unemployment problems. At the same meeting, the committee agreed to ask the federal government to proceed immediately with the construction of a multi-purpose dam on McGee Creek.

The McGee Creek Project as it is envisioned is a consolidation of water efforts in Atoka County under one system which hopefully will have considerable economic and efficiency advantages. From a local standpoint it is hoped that all Atoka County residents located where water lines prove economically feasible will be served with high quality water in quantities sufficient to meet their needs. The City of Atoka provides water for four rural water districts that have been established and are under various stages of development. At present usable water in quantities needed is questionable, even if all the projects come to reality. Construction of the McGee Creek Project will enable the people to benefit from work already done and monies already expended in water development in Atoka County. In addition, present development efforts for water development can be supported and strengthened as well as preventing future overlap of programs and facilities.

The project proposal as presently brought forward, is a proposal that has created a model of cooperation among agencies. Not only has it had the involvement of the City of Atoka and Atoka County, Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma City Municipal Authority, the Southern Oklahoma Development Trust, and the Southern Oklahoma Development Association, but also has had the involvement of our State Legislative leaders, the Office of the Governor of Oklahoma, and the assistance and support of Speaker Carl Albert of the House of Representatives and Senators Bartlett and Bellmon.

In addition to those local agencies and their representatives, other agencies and organizations involved have been the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; Oklahoma Wildlife Federation; the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Association; the United States Department of Interior; Bureau of Outdoor Recreation; Bureau of Reclamation; U.S. Park Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Bureau of Mines; Civil Aeronautics Board; Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation; United States Army Corps of Engineers; Oklahoma Department of Economic and Community Affairs; Oklahoma Parks Department; Oklahoma State Soil Conservation Board; Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture; Soil Conservation Service; Farmers Home Administration; Agriculture Extension Service; Oklahoma State Department of Highways; Oklahoma State Department of Pollution Control; and the Oklahoma State Health Department.

In addition to working with these agencies, we have endeavored to keep all of our local and statewide news media informed as to the process and progress of the project, and we have had positive support for the project within those media.

This project is large, not only from the terms of dollars and cents, but also in terms of its total overall impact upon Atoka County, its surrounding regions, and those areas lying adjacent to southern Oklahoma.

Mr. Chairman, as you can see, this is an exciting project because of the total involvement of the various levels of government. This project melds together for the first time the standard development agencies of the federal government, state government, and local government, as well as those public interest groups that have a strong stake in the conservation and development of our natural resources. The project is also outstanding because all the way through the project, up to this point in time, the major land owners in the McGee Creek area have given their full assistance, support and cooperation for the project. Though the major land owners are clearing enormous plots of land, and changing our traditional woodlands in Atoka County and surrounding counties, they have understood that the clearance of land within the project area will ruin the project area and its unique developmental potential. They realize that clearance of land and clearance of native growth in the project area will not only hurt the total chances for a inter-supportive system, but also may potentially ruin the chances of future development of Atoka County both industrially as well as economically.

Mr. Chairman, if the Inter-Local Governmental Cooperation Act passed by the Congress in November of 1968 has any meaning at all, then this project should be a success! If all of the efforts that have been expended in behalf of governmental and intergovernmental cooperation have any meaning at all, then this project should be a success! If all of the phrases and statements made by all levels of government and its officials, both elected and appointed, about the need for close cooperation, coordination, understanding, and need for a meeting of minds in the common good for the development of public projects, then this project should be a success!

This project is the only one of its kind. This is your opportunity to make all of the positive efforts that have gone into the last eight years come to a successful and positive conclusion. Not only does this project do good for the people of Atoka County, but it also does good for all of those that have been included within it, who have been interested in it, and who have both a formal and informal relationship with any and all parts of its development process. This is truly a worthwhile project. In this project, we have proved that a project of this magnitude need not be developed at the exclusion of certain viewpoints and input, but is developed based on the basic inclusion and involvement of all who would have concern in the economic and environmental development in the United States.

Senator BARTLETT. The next witness is Mr. Payne.

Are you ready to make your statement? We are very happy to see you and happy to have you here.

STATEMENT OF HON. GARY E. PAYNE, OKLAHOMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 20

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you, Senator. It is good to see you.

Senator, first of all, for the record I would identify myself as Representative Gary Payne, representing a major part of Atoka County and some 2,000 square miles in that area.

Second, I would like to point out to you that the people of Atoka and Atoka County are certainly aware of your interest in this project and are appreciative of your efforts in this regard.

I would like to point out to you that you have a letter from Governor Boren from the State of Oklahoma, and you also this morning had laid on your desk testimony of Senator Roy Boatner, who represents this portion of the State.

I have personally visited with Governor Boren and the leadership of both houses of the Oklahoma Legislature. They also send you their regards and ask me to emphasize their interest in this project.

Third, I would like to say that it is the feeling of the local citizens of Atoka and Atoka County that their preference be stated in prefer-

ring alternate D that was presented to you in the initial presentation made before this committee.

I have offered my testimony. It has been laid on the desk, and I would submit it to you for your later perusal, and I yield the remainder of my time.

Senator BARTLETT. Representative Payne, thank you very much for your fine testimony. It will be put in the record in its entirety.

The fine statement of support by Governor Boren will also be placed in the record, and the statement by Mr. Boatner will be added.

You are obviously in a good position to assess the support for this project since you represent the major portion of the area, and you represent Atoka County.

How have you found the support in your contact with your constituents and with others throughout the whole area?

Mr. PAYNE. The support has been excellent throughout the state. Our major interest in Atoka County is providing a source of good clean water and also helping to alleviate the unemployment and underemployment, as has been stated by some of the other witnesses here today.

Senator BARTLETT. Should this project, in your opinion, offer employment that would not only tend to reduce the unemployment and underemployment, but that would provide an incentive and inducement for the young people in the area in Atoka County in particular to remain in the county and to remain in the State rather than move to other places, either within the State or outside the State, for other opportunities.

Mr. PAYNE. I think it will present a valid inducement, and I appreciate your bringing that out in the record.

Thank you, Senator Bartlett. It is good to see you.

Senator BARTLETT. Thank you for being here. We were glad to have had you.

[The prepared statements of Representative Payne, Governor Boren and Oklahoma State Senator Boatner follow:]

STATEMENT OF HON. GARY E. PAYNE, OKLAHOMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 20

Mr. Chairman, my name is Gary E. Payne. I am a resident of Atoka, Oklahoma. I am a practicing attorney and have just completed my fourth term in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. My district includes a major portion of Atoka County, as well as portions of four other southeastern Oklahoma counties. I also serve as city attorney for Atoka.

Mr. Chairman, it would be difficult to over-emphasize the importance of the McGee Creek Project to southeastern Oklahoma. You have heard testimony from witnesses representing local Atoka interests, as well as southeastern regional interests. I would like to add comments of a more general nature, speaking as the elected representative to the legislature of a large portion of the area which will be directly affected by this project.

We have emphasized the impact on the local economy because we will be the area most benefitted by not only the short term boost provided by construction of the project, but also by the potential long term industrial and recreational development of the area. Naturally, because of the economic conditions which have already been pointed out to the committee, we are interested in a project which will help us reverse the disheartening economic trend that has developed in the past few years. Interest in this project is so high that, to my knowledge, no opposition of any type has developed in either the local area or the State. The project has the endorsement not only of the regional planning authority, local Chambers of Commerce, the municipality and Rural water districts which would be receiving the benefits of water developed by the project, it is also

receiving the endorsement of environmentalists who appreciate our attempt to preserve the wild environment of the project. The State Legislature is vitally interested in the project, as is the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the Oklahoma State Division of Parks and Recreation and the Wild Life Conservation Commission.

It is certainly no secret to this committee that Oklahoma is one of the leaders in the development of its water resources. Over the past thirty years, a truly remarkable system of multi-purpose water development projects has come into being in Oklahoma. The McGee Creek Project will be another step in the considered development of what may well be the most valuable natural resource of our State.

There is no question that our area needs expanded employment opportunities. Agricultural employment today in Atoka County is only 20 percent of what it was in 1950. In fact, during the past 25 years, total employment in Atoka County has declined 30 percent.

Our area, Mr. Chairman, is one of the most promising in the southwest with respect to industrial development. We are blessed with ample rainfall, good transportation, forests and other natural resources simply waiting for the opportunity to be used to their optimum. The proposed McGee Creek project will be a major step toward developing that potential. It will provide a secure source of good quality water in abundance. It will also present a recreational area attractive to the type of people we would want to come to our area, and stay there.

We are already taking the preliminary steps toward discharging our responsibility toward the project. Counsel for Oklahoma City and we are in the process of forming an entity under Oklahoma's inter-local cooperation act which can serve as the repayment contractor and operator for the project.

Even this aspect of the total project is unique. Customarily on Bureau of Reclamation Projects in Oklahoma, a master conservancy district serves as the repayment contractor. There are certain limitations, however, on who can participate in a master conservancy district. Since all of the parties wish to be a part of the project, we have rejected the master conservancy district approach. Instead, we propose to use a vehicle tailored specifically for the legal problems peculiar to our participants by utilizing the flexibility of our inter-local act. We look forward not only to a unique project, but also to a remarkable cooperative effort in our administration of it.

We cannot conceive of a more worthwhile project for the State of Oklahoma. It provides not only for local enrichment, it permits use of a valuable local resource in other areas of the State. This is what the planned development of water resources is all about. We would request the committee to give its approval to the implementation of the McGee Creek Project.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Oklahoma City, Okla., June 4, 1976.

HON. FRANK CHURCH, *Chairman,*
Subcommittee on Energy Research and Water Resources, Senate Interior and
Insular Affairs Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CHURCH: It has come to my attention that you will be holding hearings on the McGee Creek Reservoir Project proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation. Although I am unable to personally attend the hearings, I would like to lend my support and endorsement to this proposal. There is certainly a need for the water both in Oklahoma City and in Southeastern Oklahoma.

I am also very happy to hear that some 20 thousand acres will be set aside for wildlife and scenic purposes. Such a project is certainly in keeping with our development goals in Oklahoma.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope that this committee will give a favorable recommendation for the McGee Creek Reservoir Project.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID L. BOREN.

STATEMENT OF HON. ROY BOATNER, OKLAHOMA STATE SENATOR

I come to address you today on a matter which may not seem to be as important as national defense or as critical as the economy. I come to address you on the matter of a few acres of land and what we do about this land will say

to future and present generations that this great government, with all of its problems and vital needs, can still take the time to be concerned and to care about the rights of nature.

A new awakening took place in the early 1970's which called upon all of us to realize the price of progress and to ask if we always want to pay it. I don't ask you to halt progress dead in its tracks or to make a decision that will bring economic havoc upon scores of people, I only ask that a small portion of land be left untouched and thereby unspoiled for all to enjoy.

Every study indicates that there is an ever-increasing demand by the American public for wilderness lands. Officials of the U.S. Forest Service believe we can expect increases of 6 to 8 percent each year and by the year 2010 we will need to double the amount of officially designated wilderness areas. Indeed sources reveal that as many as ten to twenty million backpackers will explore America's forests this year alone. The question for you gentlemen is, "Will the need for more land be met or will we turn a deaf ear?"

Today the people of Oklahoma offer you an opportunity to meet the increasing need for more unspoiled land. We offer you the McGee Creek Project, 20,000 acres of rare and scenic wilderness. If it were possible I would like to take everyone of you to this section of eastern Oklahoma and dispel every idea you may have about our state as a vast arid plain marked only by sage brush tumbling across its shores of barrenness. In fact many people remark how similar it is to Virginia's Skyline Drive area.

Since wilderness is generally viewed as a haven from the industrialized chaos of urban America, it is not surprising to find metropolitan residents traveling great distances to reach a resource area. Consequently excessive quantities of fuel are consumed increasing the risk of injury associated with long distance journeys. As the number of visitors have increased seven-fold in the last two decades, so has the traffic and the demand for more such recreational retreats. Gentlemen, I believe one of the most commending factors of the McGee Creek area is its accessibility. Residents not only in Oklahoma City and Tulsa will find the location close and convenient, but people throughout south central United States as well. At present, there are no comparable sights in Texas or Kansas. In fact residents of Oklahoma must travel distances of over 350 miles to New Mexico or over 225 miles to Arkansas to enjoy the same wilderness attributes as offered in the study area. Thus the McGee Project is not exclusively an Oklahoma project, it's a gift we wish to share regionally as well as with all the people of America.

Next, gentlemen, I call upon your higher sense of value. One of the trademarks of a civilized nation is its acceptance of aesthetic values. The stories are all too many and I'm sure known to all of you, through man's carelessness and thoughtlessness species have been obliterated from the face of the earth. I wonder if we really have the right to say to the unborn American "you will never see these majestic animals, you will never see the unspoiled beauty of a virgin forest, you will never see the clean clear free flowing water of a mountain stream." The McGee Creek Project represents a monument to the future and a tribute to the past. It symbolizes our concern for wildlife and our appreciation of the aesthetic. In short, this project characterizes the finer side of civilized men. Within this region are many species which are not to be found anywhere else. Many endangered species make this region their home. For example, the near extinct whooping crane, the peregrine falcon, the southern bald eagle and the red-cockaded woodpecker. This region abounds with numerous more common species as well; in particular, the whitetailed deer, turkey, squirrel, rabbits, doves, beavers, mink, muskrat, fox and even bears and wolves. I believe we could call this a 20,000 acre outdoor zoo. Let me ask each of you what is to happen to the thousands of animals that inhabit the McGee Creek area if it is left to the present landowners? They propose to clear the land of its trees and vegetation in order to produce more pasture land. We are so often inclined to realize the surrounding environmental beauty only when it is gone. We take for granted the existence of wide open space until it is paved over, built on and bulldozed. Moreover the organic richness of this area is not confined solely to the majestic aura of the animal kingdom. Plant life and aquatic habitat present in the study area is abundant. The waters abound with bass and provide a home to the rare shovelnose sturgeon, feared also to be nearing the edge of extinction. Please realize that once this land is stripped of its naturalness, existing life there will dissipate never again to be seen. Food cycles will be broken and eco-systems will be irreparably damaged.

Finally I would ask that this land be preserved for the potential future benefits it may hold. As modern science looks at every plant and every animal extract for cures of man's diseases and afflictions, who knows the answer may lie waiting to be discovered in the McGee Creek area. Who can know the far reaching effects that the destruction of this land may bring?

By now we should have learned our lessons and accepted our responsibilities. As elected officials we are stewards over this wealth of nature, a stewardship that we are going to be called into accountability over. Let's unite in this common bond and prove to future generations that 20th century man was logical enough to say STOP when premonitions of environmental devastation threatened.

I hope I have painted a picture in your mind so vivid that each of you will want to come visit the McGee Creek area personally to see for yourself the handwork of God and to appreciate all the splendor of nature that this unique area unfolds to the observer. I believe if each of you did you would be overwhelmed by the compulsion to preserve and promote its natural beauty. There are few species of flora and fauna which can survive the impact of man without a concerted program of conservation. What is the alternative? At this time plans are being made to strip the land, run off the wildlife and develop this area into additional pasture land.

Being from an agricultural state, I realize all too well the need for farm and pasture land. But being a concerned Oklahoman I also realize that once this decision is made, the damage is forever done.

Gentlemen, I plead with you today to realize the importance of saving this sight. It goes far beyond its recreational value, it goes far beyond its aesthetic value, it goes far beyond its potential scientific value . . . it strikes right at the heart of man's inner soul.

I thank you

Senator BARTLETT. All right, I think we have a group of three. Mr. Bob Anderson, counsel for the Oklahoma City Water Trust; Walter Powell, city attorney, and trustee, Oklahoma City Water Trust; and Charles Baker, director, Oklahoma City.

Incidentally, if you people will be seated at the table, we are happy to have you testify. We are happy to have so much support for this project, and not just from one area, but from many areas and from various levels of government.

If you will just proceed as you wish. Identify yourself and your colleagues.

STATEMENT OF WALTER POWELL, TRUSTEE, OKLAHOMA CITY MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY, AND CITY ATTORNEY, OKLAHOMA CITY; ROBERT H. ANDERSON, COUNSEL, OKLAHOMA CITY MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY; AND CHARLES BAKER, DIRECTOR, OKLAHOMA CITY DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Mr. POWELL. Senator Bartlett, my name is Walter Powell from Oklahoma City.

As the chairman has previously noted, I am appearing here today as a trustee of the Oklahoma City Municipal Improvement Authority, which is Oklahoma City's Water Trust that controls the water facilities for Oklahoma City.

I also am appearing as city attorney of Oklahoma City, which also serves as legal adviser to the council of Oklahoma City.

I have a statement prepared by Mayor Latting, the mayor of Oklahoma City, which I would like to file at this time.

Senator BARTLETT. That will be fine, and will be placed in the record.

I want to thank Mayor Latting for her interest and her support for this very important project and for the continual support. She has urged me on many occasions to move this just as quickly as we can, and I thank her for that. And I think she certainly has helped with the support that she has given us to move as quickly as we have.

We have not moved as quickly as we wanted, but we are moving now.

Mr. POWELL. As you noted, she is certainly very interested in this from a long-range standpoint. She was unable to appear today because of pressing matters in Oklahoma City involving our council, whose meeting is scheduled at the same time as this meeting.

She does plan to attempt to appear here later this week for the legislative, the House hearings, and does plan on being present then.

I might say from the standpoint of that particular aspect that Mr. Charles Baker will summarize Mayor Latting's statement for the committee.

I might note that the long-range population growth which is noted in the mayor's statement, which I think probably originally contemplated that Oklahoma City's water needs would be satisfied to approximately the year 2000, that we do have current studies that have been prepared by a person of the Crane Co., which are our consultants for the water trust, which has been in Blair County, Oklahoma City, and those studies have now determined, which are the most current and updated studies to the previous ones, that Oklahoma City water needs will be satisfied to about the year 1983 to 1985, which is about 15 to 18 years less time than originally contemplated.

So for that reason, Mayor Latting and members of the council would certainly urge every consideration be made on appropriations to get it going as soon as possible.

Mr. Charles Baker will speak now.

Senator BARTLETT. Mr. Baker.

STATEMENT OF HON. PATIENCE LATTING, MAYOR, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, AS PRESENTED BY CHARLES BAKER

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Chairman, for the record, my name is Charles Baker. I am director of the Oklahoma City Department of Water Resources, and if you will bear with me, I will attempt to read Mayor Latting's statement. It is about two pages and not too long.

Senator BARTLETT. That will be fine.

Mr. BAKER [reading]:

Oklahoma City is a growing community and the need for an adequate supply of potable water increases in direct proportion to the City's growth.

The current average demand on the Oklahoma City water system is 58 million gallons per day. This requires a supply of raw water to the City's treatment plants in the amount of 70,000 acre feet per year.

Our present sources of supply are the North Canadian River which passes through the City, and Lake Atoka which is located in Southeastern Oklahoma approximately 100 miles from the City.

Based on studies made by our engineers, the estimated dependable yield of the North Canadian River system, considering storage losses in Lake Overholser, Lake Hefner, and Canton Reservoir is 50,000 acre feet per year.

Regarding the Lake Atoka system, our engineers have estimated the dependable yield of Lake Atoka, less losses in Stanley Draper Lake, to be 41,000 acre feet per year.

Thus, the total amount of raw water available to us from all present sources of supply is 91,000 acre feet per year. Comparing this to our current usage of 70,000 acre feet per year, Oklahoma City now has a surplus supply of only 21,000 acre feet per year.

Studies of the City's growth rate made by our consultants, including population projections and estimates of the additional quantity of water that will be needed, indicate that Oklahoma City's present sources of water supply will be totally consumed somewhere between the years 1983 and 1985, the exact date depending upon the actual growth rate that takes place.

The foregoing shows that in order for Oklahoma City to meet the demands that will be imposed upon its water system in the near future, a new source of supply must be developed and southeastern Oklahoma with its heavy rainfall provides the best sources of supply that are available to us. In this regard, Oklahoma City has obtained a permit from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to appropriate 40,000 acre feet of surface water from McGee Creek located in southeastern Oklahoma approximately 15 miles east of Lake Atoka.

We believe that the McGee Creek Project will satisfy our forthcoming need for an additional source of water supply and in view of this, Oklahoma City endorses this project and urges the completion of this new water supply facility prior to the time when our demands for water will exceed our present sources of supply.

Concerning the alternate methods of developing the McGee Creek Project that are under study, Oklahoma City will support the plan that fulfills the water supply needs for all concerned, that is economically feasible and satisfies the national, state and local requirements for water supply developments of this type. Based on the latest information that is available to us, we believe that Alternate Plan "D", as described in the April 1976, Information Report on McGee Creek prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation, would meet this criteria.

Senator BARTLETT. Mr. Baker, thank you very much, and thank Mayor Latting for a very fine statement. She certainly is stressing the importance of the urgency in proceeding ahead rapidly without any hitches.

If Congress receives the report by 1977, and it takes 5 years to build it, and perhaps 1 year for the reservoir to fill, that, I think, adds up to 1983. She points out that based on the present sources of water and the growth in Oklahoma City which has been very consistently large, that by 1983 you would begin to run short.

So we are just barely in the ball park if we can keep this on track. So I think she is pointing out the urgency that should be considered by the Congress and by all those who have a part to play in this now and until it is completed.

Thank you very much, Mr. Baker.

Mr. Anderson.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT H. ANDERSON, COUNSEL, REPRESENTING OKLAHOMA CITY MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

Mr. ANDERSON. Thank you, Senator.

For the record, my name is Robert H. Anderson. I am a resident of Oklahoma City and a practicing attorney. From May 1966 through October 1973, I served as an assistant municipal counselor for the city of Oklahoma City. My primary responsibilities were in the field of water law.

I have been associated with the McGee Creek project since the fall of 1966 as a result of those duties.

At the time I left the municipal counselor's office, I was employed as special counsel to the Oklahoma City Municipal Improvement Authority and the city of Oklahoma City for this project.

I am appearing today on behalf of the Oklahoma City Municipal Improvement Authority, the public trust which owns the Oklahoma City Water System.

The representatives of Atoka and southeastern Oklahoma have been very understandably directed their testimony toward the impact of the project on the local area.

Since Oklahoma City would also be a major beneficiary of the project, we would like to acquaint the committee with some of its broader aspects as they would affect Oklahoma City.

Since 1953, Oklahoma City has been deeply interested in the development of water resources in southeastern Oklahoma. At that time a prolonged drought, which was exceeded in severity only by the Dust Bowl days of the thirties, was affecting central and western Oklahoma.

With its then sole water source, the North Canadian River, dependent upon rainfall in the drought-stricken area for stream water, Oklahoma City began to look for a more reliable supply.

A long range study submitted in 1954 recommended immediate construction of Lake Atoka and subsequent development of nearby sources of water in the Atoka and southeastern Oklahoma area.

Acting on the recommendations of the study, Oklahoma City constructed Lake Atoka. It also filed for water rights on McGee Creek as the next step in the development of its long-range water supply program.

Close to 150 protests from Atoka and southeastern Oklahoma were filed in opposition to the Oklahoma City application for water rights on McGee Creek.

Foremost among those protestants were representatives from the city of Atoka, the county commissioners of Atoka County, and the Southern Oklahoma Development Association and its development trust.

Their protests were based primarily on the lack of long-range planning to protect the area of origin of the water.

In view of the large number of protests, the Oklahoma City Municipal Improvement Authority decided to request the Atoka representatives to join with Oklahoma City in seeking a project which would directly benefit the local area as well as provide Oklahoma City with a relatively secure long-range source of water.

It was agreed that the Southern Oklahoma Development Association would be the agency to develop this program. The McGee Creek project, with its combination of unique recreational and water supply facilities, is the result of those efforts.

In 1967 Oklahoma City had the distinctly unpleasant duty to press for water rights on McGee Creek over the protests of the local interests. In 1973, after 6 years of concerted effort on the part of SODA, Oklahoma City and other interests, it was the distinct privilege of the mayor and the city council of Oklahoma City to receive resolutions from the city of Atoka, its municipal authority, the Southern Oklahoma Development Trust, and the board of county commissioners of Atoka County, authorizing Mayor Latting to sign on their behalf an application jointly with the city of Oklahoma City for water rights on McGee Creek to be stored in the proposed McGee Creek Reservoir.

Mr. Chairman, if this appears to be a somewhat dramatic method of making application for water rights, it was intended to be so. Each of

the parties applying for water rights desired to demonstrate not only to those they represent, but also to the people of the State of Oklahoma and, not incidentally, to this Congress, that entities with interests as diverse as those of a rural agricultural area, and the largest metropolitan complex in the State could cooperate in a project of such magnitude.

Oklahoma City is primarily concerned with McGee Creek as a source of municipal water. But we are also deeply aware of the highly beneficial economic impact the project will have on the southeastern Oklahoma area. Indeed, we feel the interests cannot be separated. Whatever is of benefit to the local area is also of benefit to us.

From Oklahoma City's viewpoint, the McGee Creek project will provide practical solutions to two increasingly difficult problems we face.

First, the quality of the water in the North Canadian River, our principal source of supply, is rapidly deteriorating. The quality of water in the Atoka area is excellent.

Perhaps there is no better indication of the difference between the two sources of water than the fact that until the recent increases in power costs, it was costing roughly half as much per unit to pump water 120 miles from Atoka and treat it as it was merely to treat the water from the North Canadian River.

Even with greatly increased pumping costs, there remains a significant difference in the direct cost of the two types of water delivered to distribution systems.

The second problem is that the availability of North Canadian Water to Oklahoma City is becoming questionable. According to figures from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, there are approximately 200,000 farm ponds in the drainage area of the North Canadian River. The majority of these ponds have been built within the past 15 to 20 years.

The practical effect of this construction has been to reduce the amount of water available from its tributaries to the main stream of the North Canadian.

Coupled with the fact that the river has an extremely narrow drainage area, in some instances being less than 2 miles wide, it is imperative that Oklahoma City find and develop a reliable source of water supply.

We believe the McGee Creek project would be the best solution to our problems. It would provide high quality water from an area normally blessed with an abundance of rainfall.

The witnesses from Atoka and southeastern Oklahoma have emphasized the unique aspects of the proposed project as it applies to recreation.

May we point out to the committee another unique aspect of the project. As it is presently conceived, McGee Creek would be the first Oklahoma project which specifically provides protection of a water supply for the benefit of the local residents before water is transferred out of the basin of origin.

Now we respectfully submit that is what long-range planning is all about, and Representative Payne makes the same statement in his written statement to the committee.

We are proud to be associated with a project that can achieve a lofty ideal with such an imminently practical approach. We urge the committee to give its support to the project.

Senator BARTLETT. Mr. Anderson, your recollection of the history of the McGee Creek project from the beginning to the present time is most impressive; impressive in that Oklahoma City and southeastern Oklahoma have united together in a most worthwhile project shoulder-to-shoulder.

I think it demonstrates very vividly the solution to the problems that beset our State in other areas. There are many areas in eastern and southeastern Oklahoma which have an abundant supply of water, but do not have an adequate water supply for municipal uses or an industrial water supply.

There are areas in central and western Oklahoma, southwestern and northwestern, that are short of water. And I think that this project shows how it can be designed for the benefit of those in the area of the source of water as well as those removed from the water.

I am particularly pleased that this project provides ample water supply for the number of communities in addition to Oklahoma City. Because if it were just benefiting Oklahoma City, I do not think you would be sitting here right now, nor would I either.

It reminds me of the effort that was made in Texas several years ago after a very extensive study of their water needs, that those areas of the State that would be accumulating the water in conflict with the large cities of Texas were not going to benefit. So the whole project fell flat on its face.

So I think the project to be worthwhile and to do the job that it should do must be designed for the benefit of everybody in all the areas rather than just some.

So I thank you for a very fine statement. I am sure that the people in Oklahoma City do support this project wholeheartedly. Is that correct?

Mr. ANDERSON. Yes, they do.

Mr. POWELL. Senator Bartlett, there is one additional item I would like to add. That is, from a practical standpoint, as you are aware, our pipeline to Lake Atoka has an unused capacity. And one of the practical features of this is, from a financial standpoint, the unused capacity of our pipeline to Atoka, which is only a short distance away, may be used and will transport this additional water supply source to Oklahoma City.

So that is really a very practical side of this from a financial standpoint.

Senator BARTLETT. I think the one thing that brought us into co-operating on projects such as the McGee Creek project is to consider where the water goes if we don't. It goes to Texas and Louisiana and on down the river. And I feel that the water should benefit Oklahomans at the source so that communities will have additional water that they do not have now, as well as to take care of the needs of the larger cities and those cities in the more arid parts of the State.

Very fine testimony, and I thank you very much.

Mr. ANDERSON. Thank you.

Senator BARTLETT. Is there anyone else here to testify on Senate bill 2194, on McGee Creek, because we do have the Del City Aqueduct.

All right, we will wait just about 2 minutes, and then we will proceed on H.R. 6622.

[Brief recess.]

Senator BARTLETT. We will resume with H.R. 6622, an act to provide or the repair of the Del City Aqueduct, a feature of the Norman Federal Reclamation project.

Mr. Joe Tilly, president, board of directors, Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District, has a statement to present.

Mr. Tilly.

**STATEMENT OF JOE TILLY, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
CENTRAL OKLAHOMA MASTER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

Mr. TILLY. Thank you, sir.

Senator BARTLETT. Very happy to have you, and appreciate very much your being here.

Mr. TILLY. Thank you, sir.

I have also testimony from Robert S. Kerr and James G. Harlow on McGee Creek, and I would like to submit it for the record at this time.

Senator BARTLETT. Fine. Thank you very much. Those are both very impressive individuals, who are as knowledgeable as anyone in the area of water supply conservancy.

We thank you very much for that fine testimony that will be placed in the record on McGee Creek.

Mr. TILLY. Mr. Chairman, I am Joe Tilly of Del City, Okla., one of the member cities in the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District. I am the president of the board of directors of the district and appear here today as spokesman for the district and its member cities of Del City, Norman, and Midwest City, Okla.

I have been a member of the board since its organization in 1962 and its president for the past 10 years. What I say here today is based upon my personal knowledge.

As you may know, the conservancy district supplies water from Lake Thunderbird, constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation, to the three member cities through approximately 30 miles of lines.

About 8 miles of these lines run to the city of Norman; 16 miles of line supply Midwest City; and 6 miles of line supply Del City.

To date, although there has been only three breaks develop in the Norman line and none in the Midwest City line, there have been 84 breaks discovered and repaired in the Del City line.

This problem became apparent from the very beginning: 23 of the breaks were discovered and repaired during the initial filling of the pipeines and before the line was offered to the district by the Bureau for operation and maintenance in May 1966.

It was only after the receipt of assurances from the Regional Director of the Bureau at the time, Mr. Leon Hill, by his letter of April 19, 1966, that breaks in the line would continue to be repaired by the Bureau without cost to the district, that the line was accepted for operation and maintenance.

Thereafter, from 1966 to date, the additional 61 leaks have occurred, and all have been repaired without expense to the district exactly as assured. And the district is very appreciative that the Bureau was honored and is continuing to honor its commitment.

At the present time, breaks are repaired by the employees of the district, and the district receives reimbursement from the Bureau intermittently throughout the year as the breaks occur and are repaired.

As I understand the purpose of the proposed bill being considered here today, it is to place the reimbursement on an annual basis by simply allowing the cost of repairs made during the year as a credit against the annual repayment installment due by the district to the United States.

In my opinion, this is a good bill. It will avoid a lot of paperwork and save many man-hours of time, both on the part of the district and the Bureau personnel, and at the same time achieve the same net result.

I also understand that allowance is to be made for normal maintenance expense, based on a formula developed from experience with four other similar projects, so that the district will not be compensated for what would be normally expected maintenance costs.

The district is to perform the maintenance on an actual basis, of time and materials used, and is to use rental equipment necessary only for the time necessary to make the repairs, and is not to purchase and amortize the cost of any trucks, trailers, backhoes, or other equipment as an expense of repairs.

Finally, as has been done in the past on the individual breaks as they have occurred, the district will substantiate its annual credit deduction from the annual repayment obligation by appropriate vouchers, equipment rental receipts, payroll records, and whatever other documentation might be requested.

Hopefully, the occurrence of these repeated breaks in this one length of line will subside, or the cause of such breaks will be identified and remedied.

As I understand it, the problem has not yet been identified as one of defective pipe, improper installation, or inspection, soil conditions in the area, backfill or excessive compaction, or just exactly what the cause of the problem is.

Certainly, I am not qualified to identify the cause of the problem, and my purpose in appearing here today is not to attempt to fix any blame. The district only knows that such problem does continue to exist and feels that the proposed bill is a logical and businesslike manner in which to deal with the problem until it is solved.

The district and its member cities therefore endorse the proposed bill presently under consideration by this committee and urges your favorable consideration of it.

If any member of the committee has any questions regarding this matter, I will be glad to attempt to answer them. Otherwise, this concludes my testimony on this matter.

Senator BARTLETT. Mr. Tilly, this is a very fine statement. I think it is a good explanation of the problem. I think it is complete, and I don't think I need to ask you any questions.

I appreciate very much your being here.

Mr. TILLY. Thank you, sir.

I would like to say that our mayor, with whom I think you are acquainted, also send his greetings.

Senator BARTLETT. Fine. I appreciate that very much.

[The joint statement of Mr. Kerr and Mr. Harlow follow:]

JOINT STATEMENT OF ROBERT S. KERR, JR., PRESIDENT OF THE WATER DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION OF OKLAHOMA, INC. AND OKLAHOMA WATER, INCORPORATED; AND JAMES G. HARLOW, JR., PRESIDENT OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Water is a limiting resource. It can limit industrial development; it can limit the agricultural productivity of otherwise fertile land; and it can limit where people may live and how many may live in a given area.

As the potential hub of the Nation's new Mid-American frontier, Central Oklahoma will not allow water to become a limiting factor to its growth and expansion. Because wise planning is a prerequisite to sound water resource development, Central Oklahomans have already begun to plan for an adequate, dependable water supply for the 1980s and '90s. The proposed McGee Creek Reservoir is the keystone of the planning effort.

Current data project a populace of one million people or more for the five-county Oklahoma City SMSA in 1985. In order to sustain this projected population and to maintain its impetus for growth into the 1990s, the area must have the assured water supply which McGee Creek can provide.

Rarely has a proposed reservoir drawn the support from all sides—local inhabitants, environmental interests, potential water users and outside interests—that McGee Creek has generated. McGee Creek Reservoir is wanted; it is needed, and the proposed Plan D should be authorized by the Congress, and funded for post-authorization studies at the earliest possible date.

Senator BARTLETT. When I return, which will be in about 12 minutes, I will then call Assistant Commissioner Edwin F. Sullivan, Bureau of Reclamation, for his statement, and I think that he has agreed to submit that for the record and summarize it.

I believe in his report he favors the bill without amendment, which is good to hear. But I will not try to usurp what he says.

I will recess for about 12 or 15 minutes.

[Brief recess.]

Senator BARTLETT. The hearings will continue.

Mr. Sullivan.

STATEMENT OF EDWIN F. SULLIVAN, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF RECLAMATION, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here, and I noted your comment earlier that perhaps my statement could appear in the record and I could summarize.

I realize you are short of time, and I would be pleased to do that to save a little bit of time.

Senator BARTLETT. Thank you.

Mr. SULLIVAN. I do have one correction to make in my prepared statement, and that is that I had said in there, originally based on the data that we had that there had been no breaks in this Del City aqueduct to date in 1976.

I have learned since that there was one break very recently that we did not have at the time the statement was prepared.

So the problem of the breaks and leaks in the Del City pipeline does still exist. We hope, of course, that it will decrease as time goes on, but we have no assurance of that.

We do consider that the 88 breaks in 6.2 miles of line during a 10-year period is excessive, especially when you compare it with the total of five breaks in the remaining 24 miles of line on the same project.

Now we have concluded that the pipeline breaks have been caused by several factors that are beyond the district's control, including unusual soil conditions. We do not consider these breaks to be a normal operation, maintenance and replacement responsibility of the central Oklahoma master conservancy district.

We consider that the proposal of this bill, H.R. 6622, under which the aqueduct would be repaired by the district and then the district's costs be credited toward the repayment obligation is a good solution to handle the problem in the future.

So therefore, we are able to recommend favorably on enactment of this bill.

Senator BARTLETT. Mr. Sullivan, your verbal statement plus the written statement covers the situation very well, and I have no questions.

I wish to say to Mr. Sullivan and any others here that the record will be open for a week, and if there are any additional statements that anyone would like to make, they may submit them later on.

Mr. Sullivan, thank you for waiting, and thank you very much for your time.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Thank you, Senator.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Sullivan follows:]

STATEMENT OF EDWIN F. SULLIVAN, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF RECLAMATION,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. Chairman, we are appearing today to present our views on H.R. 6622, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the payment obligations of the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District by an amount equal to the cost incurred by the district to repair excessive breaks in the Del City aqueduct. H.R. 6622 was passed by the House of Representatives October 6, 1975.

We recommend enactment of the bill. It is our opinion that the district should be relieved of the costs of repairing those breaks in the aqueduct that are in excess of the costs of normal operations, maintenance, and replacement. An amendatory contract would permit the Secretary of the Interior to credit the extraordinary repair costs to the district's capital repayment installment.

The Del City aqueduct, a 6.2-mile-long, 18- to 24-inch-diameter, precast concrete pipeline, is a feature of the Norman Project, Oklahoma. The project provides a municipal and industrial water supply for the cities of Norman, Del City, and Midwest City, and flood protection to lands south and east of the project area. Principal features are Norman Dam on Little River, two pumping plants, and a pressure pipeline to serve each city. Water stored in Norman Reservoir is pumped into two pipelines, one serving Norman directly and the other leading to a relift pumping plant and separate pipelines serving Del City and Midwest City. Of the total project costs of approximately \$19 million, over \$11.9 million are reimbursable by the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District. The remaining costs are nonreimbursable and are allocated to recreation, fish and wildlife, flood control, and highway improvement.

Construction of Norman Dam began in 1962 and was completed in 1965. Construction of the project pipelines and pumping facilities began in 1963 and was essentially complete in 1965. When the contractor began filling operations on the Del City aqueduct in November 1965, breaks were discovered and repaired in the 18- and 21-inch-diameter pipe. Before filling was completed in April 1966, 23 breaks were discovered and repaired. Nine additional breaks were repaired later in 1966. The Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the project on May 2, 1966, with the exception of expenses incurred in repairing the numerous breaks in the Del City aqueduct.

All of the 74 pipeline breaks which occurred prior to December 31, 1972, were repaired by the contractor at no cost to the United States or to the district. Pipeline breaks subsequent to 1972 have been repaired by the United States in conjunction with continued research efforts aimed at determining the cause

of the breaks. Eleven breaks occurred during 1973 and 1974; two breaks occurred in 1975; one break has occurred to date in 1976.

All breaks or leaks in the Del City aqueduct have occurred in the 18- and 21-inch-diameter pipe; none have occurred in the 20- or the 24-inch-diameter pipe. Initially, a $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch-thick, 12-inch-wide piece of rubber was wrapped twice around the pipe to cover the break. A $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch-thick, 12-inch-wide metal clamp was used to hold the rubber in place. The clamp was then covered with concrete for protection. At present, coal tar epoxy wrapped in plastic is used in lieu of the concrete to protect the metal clamp.

We consider the 88 breaks in 6.2 miles of pipeline during a 10-year period excessive in nature, especially when compared to a total of only 5 breaks in the remaining 24 miles of pipeline on the Norman Project. We have concluded that the pipeline breaks have been caused by several factors beyond the district's control, including unusual soil conditions.

We cannot predict accurately how far into the future the pipeline breaks will continue or the total number of breaks that may occur during the 50-year repayment period. However, based on historical records, we estimate that an average of 6 breaks will occur each year for some time in the future. The average annual cost of repairing the breaks will be approximately \$3,000. As stated earlier, we do not believe that the breaks should be considered a normal operation, maintenance, and replacement responsibility of the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District. We recommend that future breaks in the aqueduct be repaired by the district and that the district's costs be credited toward its annual repayment obligation to the United States, as provided for in H.R. 6622.

Senator BARTLETT. The hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:45 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]



