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LOCAL ATTORNEY SPEAKS OUT AGAINST DAMS

Draft Extended For 2 Years; Over \$2 Billion In Pay Raises



THREE LOCAL ATTORNEYS recently testified before the House Public Works Committee in Washington on water quality aspects of the proposed Blue Ridge power project. Their testimony was arranged by 5th District Congressman Wilmer (Vinegar Bond) Moore, a member of the Public Works panel. Appearing, left to right, in front of the committee hearing room are Edmund I. Adams of Sparta, Lorne Campbell, of Independence, Va., Congressman Moore, and Arnold Young, of Sparta.

Attack Interior Dept. Stand On New River Dams

Edd I. Adams And Arnold
Young Go To Washington
For Special Meeting

The House Public Works Committee was told last week that the Federal Power Commission and the Interior Department have ignored federal environmental laws and expert testimony in the case of the Blue Ridge project, according to testimony documents of Attorney Edd I. Adams of Alleghany County.

Making the charge were three lawyers from the area where Appalachian Power Co. wants to build the project — Edmund I. Adams and Arnold I. Young of Sparta and Lorne R. Campbell, of Independence, Va.

"The conduct of the Department of Interior and the FPC in the Blue Ridge project is not only not unbiased and impartial," said Adams, who represents Alleghany and Ashe counties in FPC case.

An FPC examiner, William C. Levy, recommended June 21 that the project be built to accommodate Interior's plans to store water for diluting the chemical industry's pollutants 230 miles away at Charleston, W. Va. The case is now before the full FPC.

"The results could have been predicted before any evidence was offered," Adams told the House committee. "Interior and the FPC have carefully ignored several problems in bad faith of examination and solution."

Adams said the two agencies have pushed ahead with the pollution dilution plan despite evidence that it would cause environ-

ATTORNEYS VIEWS DAMS SITUATION

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water would not be needed if the chemical industry improved waste treatment.

He said the FPC "brushed aside" expert testimony on these points.

"Absolutely nobody we know of favors (pollution dilution) except Interior," Adams said. He noted that many authorities, including a former interior secretary, Stewart Udall, are opposed to the dilution technique.

Adams urged that Congress enact new laws providing more protection to local areas faced with huge projects like Blue Ridge.

Young, representing the Allegheny and North Carolina Farm Bureaus, showed the committee pictures of how the Kerr Scott Reservoir in Wilkes County looks when water has been drawn from it to dilute pollution in the Yadking River.

Pointing to the mud flats caused by an eight-foot drawdown, Young asked: "After viewing a debacle such as this, would you invest your own money for a vacation retreat or in a commercial development along these shores? I am sure your answer, like mine, would be an unequivocal no."

Because of a planned 12-foot maximum drawdown on the Blue Ridge project's upper reservoir, Young said, there will be little recreational development to compensate the area counties for their loss of people, taxable land, farms, timber and other assets.

He said the mud flats resulting from drawdowns are a worse form of pollution than industrial and municipal wastes because "this total waste area cannot be cleaned up" as long as drawdowns continue.

Campbell, who represents Grayson County, Va. in the Blue Ridge case, told the committee that the environmental protection laws enacted by Congress are being ignored by "apathetic and insensitive" federal agencies.

"It appears to me that Congress must now instruct the federal bureaucracies to implement immediately those laws which you have enacted," said Campbell.

Campbell said the Blue Ridge Project, if approved, could set a precedent under which federal enforcement agencies would rely on "the expediency of pollution dilution" rather than demand better treatment of wastes at the source.

The three lawyers testified at the Public Works Committee's water quality hearings, which have been in progress for several weeks. Their appearance was arranged by Rep. Wilmer Mizell of the 5th District, a member of the committee.