

Interior's Stand In Blue Ridge Case Assailed By Adams

The Department of Interior's position regarding the Blue Ridge Project was assailed by Alleghany County Attorney Ed Adams Monday night in a speech at West Jefferson.

Adams, who with Attorney Arnold Young, attended the FPC hearing in Washington in December reported on his conclusions from testimony presented--and not presented--at the FPC hearing. He spoke to the New River Development Association which includes members from Alleghany, Ashe and Watauga Counties.

Adams reported Interior witnesses appeared "hostile" to questions and data relating to the Department's contention that enormous amounts of water were needed for pollution abatement in the Charles area.

Adams said "what was most obvious was the clinging to an old position which is no longer tenable in the proceedings.

The enormous scientific proof put forward by West Virginia shows plainly that Interior's position cannot be scientifically justified."

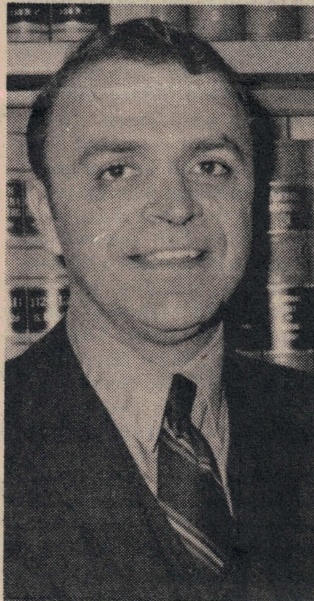
The text of Mr. Adams' prepared remarks follows:

As you know, Arnold Young and I went to Washington the

week of December 6 for the hearings before the Federal Power Commission. The

hearings and testimony were directed at that is referred to as the West Virginia question.

That is, the objections of the State of West Virginia to the project as outlined in the initial decision of the presiding examiner, Mr. William Levy. The testimony centered



Ed Adams

around conditions in the Kanawha River.

It has been rather thoroughly established that the release of water from the reservoir of the volume contemplated in the initial decision would greatly damage the ecology of the river in the stretches between the lower reservoir and Charleston. The thrust of all of the testimony during the week in Washington centered around the pollution situation in the Charleston area - what is referred to as zone 2 of the river -- being that area where the five chemical plants dump so much waste into the river.

A variety of witnesses testified. First, Dr. David Woodbridge, who, testifying for West Virginia, stated categorically that the technology

now exists whereby a source treatment of all pollution and all contaminants is possible. He was joined in this opinion by Dr. Vinton W. Baker, who testified on Tuesday. Dr. Woodbridge and Dr. Baker are both eminent scientists with extensive backgrounds and certainly the most highly qualified experts in the field from the standpoint of education and experience. They were contradicted however, by Mr. Edgar M. Henry of the West Virginia Water Resources, board, the man who is responsible for cleaning up the river. He was also contradicted by Elbert M. Rucker, Department of Interior witness, and Richard Vanderhoof of the Department of Interior.

It is my impression that the Interior resents very deeply the intervention of West Virginia and cannot, without a great deal of embarrassment, change its position. And I

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Thursday, January 14, 1974