PARISH GIVES

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drainage. Never considerations have been irrigation, local fresh-water supplies for domestic use, water for industrial purposes, for wild life and fisheries and recreation.

The oil and gas production together with the vast reserves of the Gulf of Mexico invite the processing of these petroleum products locally. Thus there is need now of fresh water in the area concerned for domestic use, industrial development and the prevention of salt water intrusion.

We therefore call to your attention the reasons why we take so much interest in the development of the area east of the East Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee from Plaquemine to the Gulf of Mexico.

A: Facts of Interest to St. Mary Parish:
1. The interconnection between the Mississippi and the Atchafalaya Rivers.
2. The location of St. Mary Parish with relationship to the Atchafalaya Basin Flood Control Project.
3. At low stages under the flood-control project the flow down the Atchafalaya River is decreased beyond engineering design of the Old River Control project. (The parish's mean source (fresh water).
4. The Atchafalaya Basin flood control project cut off the flow of fresh water west of the Old Atchafalaya Basin protection levee and east of East Atchafalaya Basin protection levee.
5. Basin protection levee.

B: Reasons why the Plaquemine lock must be maintained and operated for fresh-water supply:
1. To replace some of the flow lost on the Atchafalaya River by the construction of the Old River Control Structure.
2. To eliminate Atchafalaya River diversions at Bayou Sorrel lock.
3. To replace the proposed diversion at Courville lock.
4. Help reduce threat of salt water intrusions under new low flow conditions due to Old River Control Structure.
5. In the event Plaquemine lock will not be operated as a source of fresh water, the parish wishes that the following be put in writing:

1. Guarantee of minimum low flow through the Port Allen lock.
2. Water rights of domestic use over navigation.
3. Whether or not the Port Allen lock is only a supplement source of fresh water.
4. Approximate date when navigation through Port Allen lock will reach such a point that very little water will be diverted through the lock.
5. The St. Mary Parish police jury will oppose any attempt to divert water from the Atchafalaya River to other water sheds at low stages if such diversion increases threat of salt water intrusion at Wax Lake Outlet, Charenton, Lower Atchafalaya River.

E: If the Plaquemine lock is converted for the diversion of fresh water from the Mississippi River consideration be given in the study for the development of the fresh-water lakes in the area under consideration for recreation purposes, and for fresh-water reservoirs.

In conclusion, I would like to quote Mr. Floyd E. Dominy, Bureau of Reclamation, Washington D.C., "For certain, no one person will see water of his area wasted while a neighbor goes thirsty. Such is not our heritage. We must develop water programs in our State to prosper collectively. It is true we must develop water supplies for large industrial areas and cities but where appropriate, divert waters from areas of excess to areas of deficiency such as ours.

Franklin Banner-Tribune, March 15, 1964, p.8, c.1-3