

SECTION III - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.01 Authorization and purpose. - Albeni Falls Dam was authorized under the Flood Control Act of 17 May 1950 (Public Law 516, 81st Congress, Second Session), in accordance with Senate Document 9, 81st Congress, First Session, for the regulation of Pend Oreille Lake and for the associated purposes of flood control, navigation, conservation, recreation and power generation as part of the comprehensive plan of improvement for the Columbia River system. The flood control benefits of the project are realized from lowering of maximum stages on Pend Oreille Lake for flood peaks between 80,000 c.f.s. and 220,000 c.f.s. The review report recommending the project stated that "Downstream from Albeni Falls Dam * * * neither flood benefits nor added flood damages will result." Work was authorized on construction of dam and powerhouse at an estimated Federal cost of \$31,070,000.

3.02 History of project. - Construction was started in January 1951. Usable storage in the reservoir was available in the fall of 1952 for downstream plants. The first unit went into operation on 1 April 1955 and the third (final) unit on 6 August 1955. Major construction contracts are listed below in the order they were completed: