

COLLECTION FINDING AID

Collection number:	Aroos. MS 2
Title:	Dickey-Lincoln School Lakes Project correspondence and press releases
Dates:	1978-1981
Creator/collector:	United States. Corps of Engineers. New England Division
Extent:	1 folder (.05 cubic feet)
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Separated materials:	Not applicable.
Location of originals:	Not applicable.
Location of copies:	Not applicable.
Related materials:	Dickey-Lincoln materials in Special Collections: Aroos. TK1425.
Published in:	Not applicable.

Organizational history:

The Dickey-Lincoln School Lakes project was created by the Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division, with the idea of creating a hydroelectric dam on the upper St. John River “to convert natural energy from one-trillion gallons of water..into economical hydroelectric power for the future benefit of Maine consumers and consumers elsewhere in New England.” The project was to have been initially federally financed, and would have absorbed approximately 127,000 acres, including approximately 8,000 acres of water and wetland areas. The land was currently used for commercial lumbering operations and wildlife habitat.

The study began in 1963 with a specific focus on the Dickey-Lincoln School area of Allagash. A highly charged and controversial topic in the Saint John Valley, the Audubon Society was one of many bodies opposing the dam do to its affects on the free-flowing St. John River. During the 1970s, it was discovered that the Furbish lousewort, an endangered species of wildflower previously assumed extinct, was able to thrive only along the upper banks of the Saint John River, a habitat that would have been destroyed had the dam been created. While this alone did not prevent the project from moving forward, it compounded with other issues such as high cost for mediocre yield. The project was never funded.

Scope and content:

This collection consists of correspondence and news releases, 1978-1981, from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division, pertaining to the proposed Dickey-Lincoln School Project dam in Allagash, Maine. The correspondence simply notifies the recipient of the enclosed reports and news releases. The first news release addresses the revised draft and the decision to postpone publication of a final EIS “pending the completion of a recommendation for mitigating the loss of fish and wildlife habitat.” The second news release provides notice that the final Environmental Impact Statement was filed for the project, stating “submission of the FEIS clears the way for a decision regarding construction of this project.” This news release also includes a fact sheet and timeline of the project. The third news release pertains to the study interim report of the St. John River Basin, Maine, Feasibility Report for Cropland Irrigation and Conservation: Research and Demonstration Program. The study concerns irrigation and conservation pertaining to the potato crop yields in Aroostook County.

Inventory:

	Folder 1
John P. Chandler, Colonel, Corps of Engineers, Division Engineer to "Dear Reference Librarian," "Dear Sir or Madam." NEDPL-R, Dec. 18, 1978. 1 p. Re: issuance of a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Dickey-Lincoln School Lakes Project in Maine. 2 copies	Items 1-2
News release. "Revised Draft Impact Statement Issues for Dickey-Lincoln." Waltham, Mass. For noon release Monday, Dec. 18, 1978. 4 p. 2 copies.	3-4
Public announcement. Dept. of the Army, New England Division, Corps of Engineers. "Public Announcement of Report on St. John River Basin, Maine Cropland Irrigation and Conservation: Research and Demonstration Program." Waltham, Mass. June 27, 1980. 2 p.	5
News release. "Environmental Impact States Filed for Maine Hydro Project." Waltham, Mass. Aug. 28, 1981. 7 p. 2 copies.	6-7
C.E. Edgar III, Colonel, Corps of Engineers, Commander and Division Engineer to "Dear Sir or Madam," "Dear Reference Librarian." NEDPL-I, Aug. 28, 1981. 1 p. Re: copy of the "Final Environmental Impact Statement" for the proposed Dickey-Lincoln School Lakes Project, Maine. 2 copies	8-9