

Is The Santee Cooper Project People of Berkeley County

A Statement of The Landowners' Association

The Santee-Cooper Project is supposed to bring prosperity and pleasure to the people of Berkeley County. Will it do it? Are the people of Berkeley County to be given employment? Will the County be a better place in which to live after the completion of the project? Are her citizens, who are to be deprived of their homes to be treated fairly or are they to be made paupers? These are some of the questions we must consider.

The people of Berkeley County have been told that the Santee-Cooper project will bring them industries and prosperity. Such was not the case in Lexington County following the completion of the Lake Murray Power development. The county as a county has been hurt very badly, people have moved away and no industries have come. We know of no industries that have moved to Lexington County or Columbia as a result of the Lake Murray development. In fact the power is sold in North Carolina and because of a surplus of power less than half of the available power is used. The power of any power plant can be bought as cheaply 200 miles away as at the powerhouse.

What is going to happen to Berkeley County? The land taken by the National Forest has already caused our taxes to go up about 15 per cent and after the Santee-Cooper takes from 80,000 to 100,000 more acres of our land, our taxes are going to be increased about 25 per cent above what they used to be. It is true that the National Forest will pay a part of the sales from timber to the County Treasury but it will be many years before this is enough to reduce the tax burden. Did Mr. Maybank say, near Moncks Corner at the opening of the project, that the Santee-Cooper project would pay taxes to Berkeley County. For your information on this point we quote from the law creating the South Carolina Public Service Authority:

"8. Net Earnings—Use. The South Carolina Public Service Authority is a corporation, completely owned by and to be operated for the benefit of the people of South Carolina, and any and all net earnings thereof not necessary or desirable for the prudent conduct of its business.....shall be paid over semi-annually to the State Treasurer for the general funds of the State and shall be used to reduce the tax burden on the people of the State."

Does the above say anything about reducing the tax burden of the people of Berkeley County? It does not.

Employment of Berkeley County Citizens on the Santee-Cooper Project

Paragraph No. 9 of the Act creating the Authority provides that the labor for the project shall be drawn from each county ratably as the needs for employment may exist and that the number of laborers shall be apportioned among the counties of the State. Berkeley County's share is 1.5 per cent of the total laborers employed. This means that if they employed 10,000 men we would only get 150 jobs out of it. Do you think that anyone in Berkeley County is going to get any of the better jobs? The contractor is going to have his own men for those jobs. Has any native citizen of Berkeley County gotten a good job so far?

Are the Citizens and Merchants of Berkeley County Going to get Most of the Trade of the People Employed?

Certainly not but the Contractors and the wholesale merchants outside of the County will. The WPA is only going to pay 27c per hour or about \$43. per month out of which the laborers and going to have to pay board unless they can get to the job and live at home. The WPA is going to have its own camps to board and feed the men it employs. According to the newspapers they are

going to have large storage warehouses at Holly Hill for supplies. The food will not be bought in Berkeley County neither will the other supplies.

Will the contractor's employees spend much money with merchants of Berkeley County? Read the following partial stipulations from the contract for the Pinopolis Dam.

"CONTRACTORS CAMPS. (a) Camp Sites. The contractor shall provide, maintain and operate under competent direct such camps and facilities convenient to the work as are necessary for the housing, feeding and accommodation of his employees on the side of working hours."

"(f) Concessions in Camp Site. The Contractor will be permitted to allow use of space in buildings erected and owned by Contractor on lands owned or controlled by the Authority for the conduct of such businesses or serves as may be required for the convenience of the residents of his camp sites, but patronage of such businesses or the employment of such services shall be conditional with the Contractors employees."

"(h) Charges for Board and Lodging. The rate charged for meals in the boarding houses of the contractor's camps shall not exceed \$1.00 per day..... The rate charged for lodging in the Contractor's camps which rate shall include the cost of bedding, water, lights, heat, care of living quarters and similar items and services required for the reasonable comfort of the employees, shall not exceed \$2 per day."

These provisions from the contract for the Pinopolis Lock, and Power House require the contractor to construct a small camp for his many employees and permit him to conduct such business and services as may be necessary for the convenience of his employees. He is allowed to charge a total of \$33.60 per month for board and lodging. Do you think he is going to do these things? We imagine that he is to the extent that there is any money. If you were a contractor wouldn't you do the same? After the contractor gets his share the merchants and citizens of Berkeley County will get what they can of the remainder. Do you believe that you will get rich? Certainly the trade of the merchants will increase to some extent but we fear that the increase in business they will have will not compensate for the loss of trade following the completion of this project. We can't see how anyone is going to retire on the money they make.

The Prices Offered for land and the Resettlement Mystery Exposed

The Authority has budgeted \$2,145,500 with which to purchase 161,000 acres of land and we are not informed that they will be able to buy about 200,000 acres. If they have only so much money and not they appraising the land to fit the amount of money they have? If they spend more for land they will have less for other purposes and will not have enough money to complete the project. For the 161,000 acres they estimate to pay an average price of \$13.30 per acre which includes your home, barns, outbuildings, fences, improvements and timber. At Lake Murray an average price of \$37.31 per acre was paid. In the Tennessee Valley an average price of \$55.00 was paid. Are our lands worth less? The Authority to date has offered our landowners a smaller amount than they figured the land was worth when they applied to the PWA for the money with which to build this project. If a landowner does not receive enough with which to replace his property holdings is he being treated fairly? It is not a question of whether the land is worth on the open market but a question of what a person is entitled to when his home and all his possessions are forcibly taken from him and he has to start over.

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rs' Association of The Santee-Cooper Basin

large storage warehouses at Holly Hill for their food will not be bought in Berkeley County and other supplies.

Contractor's employees spend much money with the Berkeley County? Read the following partial quote from the contract for the Pinopolis Dam.

CONTRACTORS CAMPS. (a) Camp Sites. The contractor, maintain and operate under competent direction, facilities convenient to the work as are necessary for feeding and accommodation of his employees outdoors."

visions in Camp Sites. The Contractor will be permitted use of space in buildings erected and owned by the lands owned or controlled by the Authority for the businesses or services as may be required for the residents of his camp sites, but patronage of the employment of such services shall be open to contractors employees."

for Board and Lodging. The rate charged for boarding houses of the contractor's camps shall not exceed \$2.00 per day. The rate charged for lodging in dormitories of the contractor's camps, which rate shall include the water, lights, heat, care of living quarters and all other services required for the reasonable comfort of the employees shall not exceed \$2.00 per day."

visions from the contract for the Pinopolis Lock, Dam and other structures require the contractor to construct a small town and permit him to conduct such businesses as may be necessary for the convenience of his employees and to charge a total of \$33.60 per month for the use of the land. Do you think he is going to do these things? He is to the extent that there is any money in it. The contractor wouldn't you do the same? After the contractor has shared the merchants and citizens of Berkeley County what they can of the remainder. Do you believe he will? Certainly the trade of the merchants will be hurt. We fear that the increase in business will not compensate for the loss of trade following the completion of this project. We can't see how anyone is going to make money they make.

s Offered for Land and the Settlement Mystery Exposed

The Authority has budgeted \$2,145,500 with which to purchase land and we are now informed that they will have only 10,000 acres. If they have only so much money are they going to fit the amount of money they have and more for land they will have less for other things. They have not enough money to complete the purchase of 101,000 acres they estimate to pay an average price of \$21.00 per acre which includes your home, barns, other improvements and timber. At Lake Murray \$37.31 per acre was paid. In the Tennessee River project a price of \$55.00 was paid. Are our lands worth less to date has offered our landowners a smaller price than the land was worth when they applied to the Authority with which to build this project. If a landowner is not able enough with which to replace his present land, is he not treated fairly? It is not a question of what a man's home and all he possesses is forcibly taken from him to start over.

The landbuyers have been going around trying to find out if our negroes want to resettle and trying to persuade them to resettle. Are they going to resettle all of the negro tenants or let them starve? This resettlement is all bluff and hocus-pocus. The Authority has no money with which to resettle the negroes or anyone else and it now appears that they are going to have to go back to them and try to buy their land. The prices they have offered so far are pitifully small.

The whole trouble is that the Authority does not have sufficient money with which to build the project and pay the landowner enough to replace his holdings without loss to himself. Should the citizens of Berkeley County suffer because of this?

The Authority to date has not bought any land from a citizen of Berkeley County and they have been trying for nine months to do it. They have only bought a little over 6,000 acres and this is in scattered tracts. They don't even own all of the land for the site of the Pinopolis dam.

Unfair Condemnation Bills

The Authority has tried to get one bill through the Legislature which would allow them to appoint their own condemnation board and even allow members of the Authority to serve on the board. The Authority is now trying to get another bill introduced into the Legislature as bad or worse than the previous one. Citizens are you in favor of any such unfair bills?

Conditions in the County to Follow Completion of the Project

If this project is completed, which is doubtful, taxes are going to be higher, the population of the county will probably be less not more, the county will be divided in such a manner that part of the trade in the cut off portions will go out of the county. There will be less pulp wood to sell, less timber to cut, fewer saw mills, fewer payrolls and less trade for the merchants. If we plan to stay here is this going to help us or hurt us? Will we be able to support our schools and educate our children? If the project is not completed or is completed we are going to have our citizens deprived of their homes, their churches destroyed, the graves of their loved ones desecrated and their communities broken up.

Should anyone in Berkeley County be made to suffer for a project whose foundation is political and not economic?

Did you know that the Authority has no contracts for the sale of the power they say they are going to generate?

Have you heard of any shortage of power in South Carolina?

Did the paper mills at Georgetown and Charleston wait for the Santee-Cooper?

Are the Rural Electrification Lines being held up waiting for the Santee-Cooper Project or are they being built as rapidly as there is a sale for the power?

Did you know that this project does not provide navigation to Columbia or any other town?

Can you think of any benefit to anyone from this project except the politicians?