

Denver, Colorado,
February 27, 1954

U.S. Senator Eugene D. Millikin,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Millikin:

This is to inform you of the results and our comments of the meeting held February 18, 1954 in Loveland, Colorado regarding the algae infestation of Grand Lake. Representatives from the following organizations were present; The Bureau of Reclamation, State Public Health Department, State Game and Fish Department, The Northern Colorado Conservancy District, Cities of Loveland, Berthoud, Boulder, Ft. Collins, Greeley and Longmont, U.S. National Parks Department, Grand Lake and other interested individuals.

All of the representatives recognized that algae control is a very serious and important problem and something must be done now to curb it for the summer of 1954. It was brought out that it could be controlled by the use of copper-sulphate treatments, however, samples of the water would have to be carefully analyzed to determine the amount of treatment needed to kill the prevailing type of algae but not injure the fish life. Working committees were chosen from the different groups to make this study and to handle the treatment work. There was, of course, no offer by representatives of the Reclamation Bureau to take over this work on a permanent basis and assume their responsibility because of lack of authority.

The treatment arrangements for this summer are only temporary and would not work out satisfactorily on a permanent basis because it will be necessary to continually treat the water pumped into the canal between Granby and Shadow Mountain reservoirs as well as Shadow Mountain Lake itself during the spring, summer and fall months. The Bureau of Reclamation should assume their rightful responsibility in this connection because it is their project, they created it, operate it and are liable under Senate Document No. 80 wherein it is stated that the natural beauty of Grand Lake would definitely be retained, in fact, improved.

The operation of pumping water in the summertime should definitely be discontinued for example; in 1953 the Granby pumping plant, pumped algae infested water from Shadow Mountain reservoir thru Grand Lake as follows: 618 hours in July, 584 hours in August, and 680 hours in September. Their schedule for this summer calls for practically no pumping in these months, which should help. Shadow Mountain reservoir is a natural breeding ground for algae and no water should be run thru Grand Lake during the summer infestation period.

If the Reclamation Bureau would take over their responsibility and set-up the necessary organization and equipment to treat Shadow Mountain Lake waters and the water pumped into it from the Granby reservoir on a continuing basis and discontinue pumping during the summer months, it is possible that the algae might be controlled in Grand Lake which would provide the cities on the eastern slope with good, clear and healthful drinking water.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert L. Coon,
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