

COPIES TO U.S. SENATORS EUGENE D. MILLIKIN AND EDWIN C. JOHNSON, AND TO U.S. REPRS. WILLIAM S. HILL AND WAYNE N. ASPINALL.

Denver, Colorado, March 11, 1954

Mr. H. F. McPhail, Acting Commissioner,
U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. McPhail:

Thank you for your letter of March 5, 1954 regarding the algae infestation of Grand Lake, we appreciate your help and only hope that the action planned will result in a solution.

One of our chief concerns is that the action to be taken should be done by a single agency equipped with the necessary material and equipment to do an effective and continuous treatment work that would definitely control the algae and not by a committee (with all due respect to its members) that has to sandwich in this extra work with their regular duties. The practical facts of what we are all up against were brought out in the February 18th meeting by Mr. George J. Turre, Sanitary engineer, Board of Water Commissioners, City of Denver. Mr. Turre is an expert on the control of algae and has written many treatise and given numerous lectures on the subject. In addition, he has the practical knowledge because it is his job to treat and restrain the algae in all of Denver's reservoirs. This, he has done very successfully over the past eleven years. He claims that practically all types of algae can be curbed by the use of copper-sulphate if treated when the first signs of growth appears, usually in the latter part of May each year. Also, he states that in none of Denver's reservoirs did the algae lessen after the minerals (phosphates & nitrates) dissolved out. It is still necessary to treat the water in the reservoirs every year just the same, so we do not want to have Grand Lake ruined while we are hopefully waiting. Further, he brought out the facts, that algae flourishes in shallow and warm water where there is an abundance of sunlight and where there is food to feed upon, such as, the decaying vegetation in the bottom of Shadow Mountain Lake. In former years, we had appreciably no algae in Grand Lake until last year when it was swept into the lake along with the large volume of water that was transferred to the eastern slope during the months of July, August and September.

Mr. McPhail, please do not think that we are critical of what is being done or the progress so far, it is definitely a step in the right direction, however, we do want a good job of algae control and that is why we would like to have the Bureau of Reclamation take it over, so that the final results will be highly satisfactory to all concerned. We all have a fairly good investment in property around Grand Lake and a stake in its future and only want the lake to be like it used to be. The businessmen in Grand Lake depend upon the tourists, vacationists from Denver and other Colorado Towns and the summer residents for their livelihood. They will not be able to retain this business if Grand Lake loses its attraction, such as, happened last summer when the lake was completely covered over with a dark green, slimy and odoriferous scum which resulted in many cancelled reservations, other visitors refused to let their children in the unsanitary looking water and many uncomplimentary remarks, for instance, this is the last time we are coming here, etc.

We, therefore, look to the Bureau of Reclamation to preserve the scenic beauty and natural attractions of Grand Lake as agreed and set forth in Senate Document No. 80 of the 75th Congress.

We believe, that if you were in our predicament you would feel the same as we do. We only ask for what is just and fair in this matter and your continued interest and help to eliminate the condition.

Very truly yours,
Robert L. Coon,
1757 Bellaire St., Denver

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