

DAM POWER LINE PROMISES MUCH DEVELOPMENT IN MINING SECTOR

Searchlight And Nelson
To Be the Center of
Development *1 of 3*

HEARING IS HELD

Competent Engineers
Paint Rosy Picture of
The Possibilities

A picture of an extensive mining development in the Nelson and Searchlight districts, involving an increase of population of 10,000 people, and a boost of the valuations of the mining properties of some \$2,500,000 was unfolded in Las Vegas this morning at the power district hearing held before Harley A. Harmon, chairman of the Nevada public service commission.

The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether or not the creation of a power district composed of the Nelson and Searchlight school districts, is warranted for the purpose of constructing a transmission line to carry Boulder dam power.

Evidence was introduced by competent mining engineers which indicated that with the development of Eldorado canyon mining properties, Nelson would probably become a town of 6,000 supported by a payroll of 1,500 men.

SIMILAR EVIDENCE predicted the return of Searchlight to the glory of the boom days of 1904 and 1905 when it had a population of 4,000.

A million dollars would be added to the valuation of the Nelson district, it was predicted, and \$1,500,000 to the Searchlight area.

Witnesses all testified that with the advent of cheap Boulder dam power, the mining and milling cost of ore would be reduced to between \$3.50 and \$4.00 per ton, as compared to a present cost of between \$6.00 and \$7.00 per ton.

THE DEVELOPMENT of both camps would come thru the bringing into commercial feasibility the mining of the lower grade ores which abound in the dumps and mines, the witnesses pointed out.

There is a large volume of \$8.50 ore in the Nelson district, it was pointed out, and a great quantity of similar low value rock in the Searchlight area.

Estimates of the value of the known ore bodies and dumps at Eldorado canyon was around \$15,000,000; no figure was given for Searchlight. The mines in both camps are exclusively gold-silver properties.

THERE IS enough ore in sight right now to run both camps full-blast for a period of five years. Engineers who have examined the properties predicted that both Eldorado canyon and Searchlight are good for 25 years production at maximum volume. This is based on known ore-bodies and probable extension of these bodies in known directions.

The Nelson mining district was
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Dam Power Line

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described by John S. Sartain of the Eldorado Canyon Development company, owners of the Wall Street and other properties, as being 4 by 10 miles in extent, operating since 1860, when the Te-chatticup mine was first discovered.

HE OUTLINED the probable development of his own properties with the advent of cheap power, which he declared would cut costs by one-third. This is not the only advantage, he explained, pointing out that there is a shortage of water in the district for any extensive operations, and that cheap power will make possible the pumping of a sufficient quantity from the Colorado river. It would make possible, also, he predicted, the establishment of a custom mill which would insure the development of many smaller properties which cannot operate now.

The power line would be a 44,000 volt system, 13 miles to Nelson and 44 to Searchlight. To Nelson, the cost would be approximately \$39,000 (including a telephone line also) and to Searchlight by the way of Nelson would cost \$58,000 for a 44 mile line.

DURING THE course of the testimony this morning, Chairman Harmon pointed out that the construction of this line from Boulder dam to Searchlight would be in harmony with the government's program for further development of the Boulder dam area. This program, Harmon stated, called for construction of a dam at Bullshead near Searchlight, and the construction of a power line from the Boulder dam power houses to that point. The line by the way of Nelson and Searchlight would be along the route of the Bullshead line, and could be used as 44 miles of the 60 mile line to be built for that purpose, when and if the development is carried out.

It was also pointed out that a vast development program is being carried on in both Searchlight and Nelson districts in anticipation of the availability of cheaper power, witnesses testifying that both districts had suffered immeasurably from the high cost of

power, transportation and other factors which would be entirely eliminated as obstacles once cheap power is available from Boulder dam.

The commission is being asked to create a power district for the Nelson and Searchlight areas to enable them to ask for a PWA loan to construct the power line, and once the district is approved, the application will be immediately made.

WITNESSES AT the hearing included: Eldorado Canyon — Pete Keegle, manager Rover mine; D. P. Simmons, president, and John Sartin, general manager, Eldorado Canyon Development company; Dave Keath, Morita group; P. A. Simon, general manager Diamond Gold Mining company; James Shear, Cora Mining company; Searchlight—W. L. Rollar, manager, Duplex; C. Adams, manager, Quartet; Dr. R. L. Fenlon, representing a group of different owners; Dick Arnold, Nevada assemblyman, representing his own properties and the Boston-Searchlight group; Claude Mackey, district administrator NERA.

P. A. Simon was scheduled to go on the stand this afternoon to introduce the detailed report of D. F. Meiklejohn, noted mining engineer, who made an investigation of the Techatticup property and the Eldorado Canyon district, and recently completed a comprehensive and highly favorable report, most of which was published in the Reviewe-Journal of recent date.