

River Board To Seek Modifications Of Hard Rules on Power Withdrawal

In an address given before the Carson City Lions club recently, A. M. Smith, state engineer, spoke of the work of the Colorado river commission of Nevada and of some matters that give concern to the officials who fear that the state may not benefit as greatly as had been expected from developments at and the building of Boulder dam.

Smith explained that under the contracts the state of Nevada must give two years' notice to the bureau of reclamation prior to withdrawal of power to the amount of 5,000 horse power or more; that after 5,000 or more horsepower has been withdrawn and put to work, the state must also give two years' notice before any of the power may be relinquished. Further, that if during the 12 months prior to an application made by some individual or industry for withdrawal of power, the state has either withdrawn or relinquished 5,000 or more horsepower, two years' notice in advance must be given before any additional power can be obtained.

Smith said it is believed by the commission that it is probably too late to have any amendments made by congress to the Boulder canyon project act. It is thought, however, that something may be accomplished by agreements with Los Angeles and power districts of southern California whereby a modification of the hard regulations that will restrict Nevada's use of the power

can be worked out.

Smith explained, also, that under the provisions of the contract the state must pay for all power withdrawn, regardless if conditions should develop making impossible use of the full amount withdrawn.