

ADDRESS REPLY TO
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON

REFER TO FILE NO. _____

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*Return to
Mr. Lammell*
*Carbon given to
Littell on 23 Mar*
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23 March 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL BREHON B. SOMERVELL, THE COMMANDING
GENERAL, ARMY SERVICE FORCES.

SUBJECT: Hanford Engineer Works, Washington.

1. Reference is made to the acquisition of certain land located
within the area of the Hanford Engineer Works Project, State of Washington.

2. For your information, the following is the status of acquisition
of the approximately 2000 tracts included in the Project:

a. Purchase: - 683 tracts were closed on a direct purchase
basis and the owners have been paid.

b. Condemnation: - 1203 tracts were included in declarations
of taking filed with the Court. Partial payments to the owners
have been made on 226 tracts (18%) and final payments to the owners
on 110 tracts (9%). With a few exceptions, the declarations of
taking were filed with the Court in the Summer of 1943. Only a
small number of cases have been tried before the Court where there
has been a contest as to value. The juries have been awarding
values greatly in excess of the Government appraisals.

3. These cases must be closed and the former landowners paid without
further delay if the essential secrecy of the Project is to be protected
to the degree which the President of the United States has directed me to
enforce. I urge that the Department of Justice assign additional personnel
for the job and that the Justice Department should attempt to have addi-
tional judges assigned to the Eastern District of Washington to hear the
trials of the cases.

4. Because of the highly secret nature of this Project, I am most
anxious that arrangements be made with the Court whereby the jury would
not have to enter on the lands prior to the determination of value. There-
fore, it is suggested that the Department of Justice attempt to make
arrangements with the Court in order to eliminate the practice of the jury
viewing the land. If the Department of Justice is unable to arrange this,
the expediting of the trials becomes even more pressing.

For the Chief of Engineers:

L. R. Groves

L. R. GROVES
Major General
Corps of Engineers

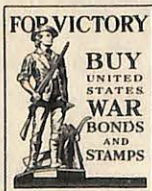
Noted in office
of C.G., A.S.F.

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