

STATEMENT BY SENATOR ROBERT MORGAN

JANUARY 3, 1977

RE: FALLS DAM PROJECT

I was very surprised yesterday to see a list of public works projects published in newspapers with the explanation that the Carter Administration had given^{it} to the next Secretary of Interior for re-evaluation. The Falls Dam project was on the list.

Ordinarily, before such a list would be compiled and made public, Congressional representatives from the affected states would be notified. This was not done in this instance. We contacted the office of President-Elect Carter early this morning to strongly protest the proposed action. We were told at that time that the list was prepared by a natural resources and environmental group working with the Carter Transition team and that it was forwarded to the new Secretary of Interior in a briefing notebook merely as an "option." The list was then made public by an aide to the Secretary-designate.

As far as the Falls Dam is concerned, there are some things about this that do not add up. For one thing, it is a Corps of Engineers project, and has little or nothing to do with the Interior Department.

Any environmental problems connected with the Falls Dam were worked out long ago. And after last summer's drought in the Raleigh area became extremely serious, we were given to understand that this project would be expedited, not "re-evaluated."

We worked long and hard during the last Congress to make sure funding would be available this year. I fully expect this project to go forward as scheduled. I, for one, intend to use any influence that I have to see that this happens.

The need for this dam is too great for it to appear on any re-evaluation list, no matter how it got there.