

THE WORKS PROGRAM

--Works Progress Administration--

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Williams Reports Approximately \$145,000,000 of WPA Funds Being Expended for Public Utility Projects.

Public utility projects of the Works Progress Administration representing an investment of approximately \$145,000,000 have been selected for development and practically all of them are either under construction or completed, according to progress reports on the Work Program made public today by Aubrey Williams, Deputy Administrator of WPA.

More than two-thirds of the estimated expenditures on these projects, or \$101,027,000, will be devoted to sewer systems, the survey reveals. The next largest portion, \$34,483,000, goes to water purification and supply. Electrification projects account for \$2,203,000 of the remainder.

A total of 8,413 public utility projects had been selected for operation by the Works Progress Administration up to April 15. These projects call for a total of \$110,498,480 of WPA funds, the remaining \$34,243,655, or nearly one-fourth the total cost, is pledged by local sponsors.

By May 15 the public utility improvement program of the Works Progress Administration had provided a total of 165,006,733 man-hours of employment and earnings aggregating \$73,809,493. The maximum number of employes on WPA public utility projects at any one time was 273,725 as of March 15. By May 15 this number had declined to 239,193.

Of the Works Progress Administration funds used in this type of work, it is estimated that 75 per cent will be paid to workers in wages and 25 per cent will be spent for materials, supplies and equipment. The sponsors' pledges will be devoted largely to materials and equipment, only 13 per cent going to labor.

Although some sewerage projects have been initiated in every State, approximately 70 per cent of the projects, on a cost basis, were in 10 States. New York (exclusive of New York City) devoted the largest amount to this type of project and New York City was second, these two areas accounting for approximately one-fourth the expenditure for sewerage improvements. The cost of sewers increases rapidly with their capacity, it was explained, and sewerage systems are, in general, necessary only in centers of population.

New York, excluding New York City, has selected for operation sewer projects involving an expenditure of \$14,017,000. Expenditures on sewerage projects in New York City will amount to \$11,867,000. Ohio is third with \$8,498,000. Other leading states in this respect are: California, \$7,892,000; Pennsylvania, \$7,050,000; Illinois, \$5,948,000; Michigan, \$5,086,000; Massachusetts, \$4,902,000; Georgia, \$3,226,000; Wisconsin, \$2,852,000; New Jersey, \$2,839,000; Missouri, \$2,299,000; Connecticut, \$2,033,000.

The bulk of water purification and supply systems also is found in a relatively small number of states, "probably for the same reasons," the report explains. Ten leading States account for approximately 64 per cent of the cost of such projects. New York, excluding New York City, again leads, with \$4,377,000. Ohio is second with \$2,586,000. Others in the top bracket are: California, \$2,501,000; Michigan, \$2,337,000; New York City, \$2,316,000; Massachusetts,

\$2,109,000; New Jersey, \$2,052,000; Pennsylvania, \$1,940,000; Texas, \$860,000; Connecticut, \$758,000.

Maryland has the largest share of electrification projects, involving an expenditure of \$435,000. Indiana is next with \$270,000 and Wisconsin is third with \$216,000. These projects are largely for the extension of electrical service to rural areas from plants under public ownership.

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