

A Dam in Kentucky Opposed by Douglas Delayed 6 Months

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 20—Construction of a Federal flood control dam in the scenic Red River Gorge of Eastern Kentucky, a project bitterly opposed by conservationists, has been delayed "indefinitely" by budgetry and planning difficulties, the Army Corps of Engineers said today.

The delay of "six months or more" in the announced start of construction this March was an incidental victory for the Kentucky chapter of the Sierra Club. The conservationist group brought Associate Justice William O. Douglas of the United States Supreme Court and his wife to the remote Red River Gorge last Nov. 18 to lead a widely publicized protest hike by hundreds of nature lovers.

The protesters were picketed by angry rural Kentuckians, who have sought construction of the dam for 13 years for flood control, water supply and recreation purposes.

The delay will give the conservationist opponents of the dam an opportunity to testify against it when hearings are held here in April before the Public Works Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The ranking Republican member of the subcommittee is Senator John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky.