

# DAM TO BE BUILT AT DISPUTED SITE

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### Army's Engineers Rebuff Udall on Kentucky Area

WASHINGTON, March 15 (AP) — The chief of the Army Engineers announced today that a dam and reservoir would be built in the Red River Gorge in eastern Kentucky despite proposals that they be built elsewhere to preserve the area.

The project was authorized by Congress in 1962. At that time its cost was estimated at \$11.1-million. President Johnson's current budget includes \$800,000 for construction of the project. Congress has yet to appropriate the money.

Lieut. Gen. William F. Cassidy, chief engineer, said that he made his decision after a re-study by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall. Mr. Udall, seeking to preserve the esthetic and ecological features of the Red River Gorge, had proposed the project be built about six miles downstream.

General Cassidy said that his decision to proceed with the project, as authorized by Congress, was based on these con-



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siderations:

¶ The authorized project will meet needs in flood control, water supply and water quality control at an estimated cost of \$3-million less than at the lower site.

¶ A project at the lower site would displace 20 more families than one at the upper site.

¶ A dam at the lower site would flood more developable

land and create sediment problems in the gorge.

"There is a lack of substantial disparity," General Cassidy said, "between the effects of the natural values of the area occasioned by projects at either site. The adverse effect on the ecology by the authorized project is offset by esthetic, rec-

reational and economic gains."

The seasonal pool of the authorized project is well below the major scenic landmarks of the Red River Gorge. Of the 23 natural arches in the region, only one will be affected at all, and then only when the pool level is raised in operating, the reservoir to retain floods.