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REMARKS OF GOVERNOR THOMAS H. KEAN  
MONKSVILLE RESERVOIR GROUNDBREAKING  
MONKSVILLE, NEW JERSEY  
MONDAY, MAY 20, 1985

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THANK YOU.

AS VIRTUALLY EVERYONE KNOWS BY NOW, NEW JERSEY FACES A SERIOUS DROUGHT.

I SUPPOSE IT'S FITTING THAT THAT SHOULD BE THE BACK DROP AGAINST WHICH WE BREAK GROUND ON THIS HISTORIC PROJECT TODAY.

BECAUSE TODAY WE ARE TAKING A SIGNIFICANT STEP --- PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IN NEW JERSEY'S HISTORY --- IN MAKING SURE THAT WE WILL NOT FACE UNACCEPTABLY SERIOUS DROUGHTS IN THE FUTURE.

THIS PROJECT, AS YOU KNOW, IS PART OF THE WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT --- THE LARGEST WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN NEW JERSEY'S HISTORY. BY BREAKING GROUND TODAY ON THE MONKSVILLE RESERVOIR, WE ARE PUTTING IN PLACE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THAT PROJECT --- THE CENTERPIECE OF OUR PLAN FOR A DROUGHT-PROOF NEW JERSEY.

THE MONKSVILLE PROJECT, HAS A LONG AND COMPLEX HISTORY; BUT I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE TODAY ITS IMPORTANCE IN OUR EFFORT TO DROUGHT-PROOF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY.

IN THE STATEWIDE WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN, WHICH WAS APPROVED IN 1982, IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT THE WATER SUPPLIES OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY HAD WERE TOTALLY INADEQUATE TO WITHSTAND A MAJOR DROUGHT. THIS DEFICIENCY WAS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE DROUGHT OF 1980-2, WHICH OCCURRED WHILE THE MASTER PLAN WAS BEING FINALIZED. A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT EMERGENCY PROJECTS AND WATER RATIONING WERE REQUIRED TO GET US THROUGH THAT DROUGHT. A MAJOR RECOMMENDATION OF THE MASTER PLAN WAS TO TAKE ACTION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLIES TO MAKE THE REGION SAFE AGAINST A REPETITION OF THE DROUGHT OF THE SIXTIES, THE MOST SEVERE ON RECORD.

FOLLOWING THIS PLAN, TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL WATER FOR THE NORTHEAST, THE STATE PROCEEDED TO STUDY THE PROPOSED RARITAN PASSAIC DIVERSION PROJECT AND A NUMBER OF OTHER ALTERNATIVES. ALSO THE NORTH JERSEY WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HACKENSACK WATER COMPANY PROCEEDED WITH PREPARATIONS TO BUILD MAJOR PORTIONS OF THE WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT, AS RECOMMENDED IN THE MASTER PLAN. THESE PORTIONS ARE NOW LARGELY COMPLETE, AND WILL BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR.

*Now*  
~~SPECIFICALLY~~, WE HAVE COMPLETED THE AQUEDUCT BETWEEN THE WANAQUE RESERVOIR AND THE ORADELL RESERVOIR AND WE HAVE FINISHED THE PUMPING STATION ON THE RAMAPO RIVER. THE PUMP STATION AND CONDUIT ON THE PASSAIC RIVER WILL BE FINISHED NEXT SPRING.

MEANWHILE, THE NORTH JERSEY DISTRICT UNDERTOOK FURTHER PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE MONKSVILLE RESERVOIR, AS A PART OF WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT.

THE STUDIES CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HAVE SHOWN THAT THE WATER NEEDS OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY CAN BE MET FOR A GOOD MANY YEARS BY COMPLETION OF THE WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT, INCLUDING THE BILLION GALLONS STORAGE PROVIDED BY MONKSVILLE. THIS WILL PROVIDE A SAFE YIELD ADEQUATE FOR A REPETITION OF THE GREATEST DROUGHT OF RECORD. THESE STUDIES SHOW THAT THE RARITAN PASSAIC DIVERSION PROJECT WILL NOT BE NEEDED UNTIL AFTER THE YEAR 2000.

THE WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT FULFILLS A GREAT NEED FOR NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY, WHICH IS MOST ESPECIALLY APPARENT TODAY WHEN THE CURRENT DROUGHT IS CAUSING US AGAIN TO TAKE EMERGENCY MEASURES. THE BENEFITS WHICH THE PROJECT WILL PRODUCE WHEN COMPLETED ARE NOT LOCAL BUT REGIONAL. THROUGH INTERCONNECTIONS, INCLUDING THOSE CONSTRUCTED AFTER THE LAST DROUGHT, THE ADDITIONAL DEPENDABLE YIELD AVAILABLE FROM THIS PROJECT CAN BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY.

BECAUSE THE WANAQUE SOUTH PROJECT SERVES A REGIONAL NEED, AND IS PLANNED AND BUILT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES OF THE WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN, I EXPECT TO ASK FOR A \$50 MILLION LOAN TO PROVIDE FOR A PORTION OF NORTH JERSEY DISTRICT'S INVESTMENT IN THE PROJECT. THIS WILL REQUIRE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE 1981 BOND ACT --- AND I ASK FOR THE LEGISLATURE'S COOPERATION.

WANAQUE SOUTH AS A WHOLE --- AND THE MONKSVILLE RESERVOIR IN PARTICULAR --- ARE PART OF THE CONTINUING EFFORT WE HAVE MADE SINCE THE 1981 DROUGHT TO IMPROVE NEW JERSEY'S ABILITY TO WITHSTAND THE LACK OF RAINFALL WE HAVE EXPERIENCED LATELY.

MANY OF THE INTERCONNECTIONS ARE IN PLACE --- SUCH AS THOSE AT GREAT NOTCH AND BETWEEN THE NEWARK AND ELIZABETHTOWN SYSTEMS.

*a head schedule* *54 mil per day*  
~~on time~~ *below cost*  
-6- *public-private*

IN ALL, WE HAVE COMMITTED \$179 MILLION FROM THE 1981 BOND  
ACT. BUT TODAY, WE ARE FOLLOWING THROUGH ON THE MOST  
IMPORTANT COMMITMENT OF ALL --- THE MONKSVILLE RESERVOIR.

CONGRATULATIONS!!