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Monthly Report No. 2

June 1, 1971

To: Government of the Philippines 4e.  
Thru: USAID, Manila  
From: Project Engineer, Water Resources Development Project,  
BuRec, Manila  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report, May 1971, in Accordance with PIC/T  
492-233-2-90095, Amendment No. 1, dated March 24, 1971.

Significant Accomplishments:

Discussions were held in Manila on May 4, 1971 with a representative of USAID/Washington in regard to the question raised at the end of April concerning PIC/T 90095. The question was on the length of time that Feasibility Study loan funds had been programmed in the PIC/T. The terminal disbursement date for Loan No. 492-H-023 was scheduled for Nov. 30, 1972 but the PIC/T showed funding past June 30, 1973. The length of the Magat River Project feasibility study of two years from July 1, 1971 was re-examined and it was the contention of the Project Engineer that the full two years would be required. Further discussion was deferred until May 17 in Washington D.C. at which time a representative of USAID/Manila was scheduled to visit USAID/W. At the meeting of May 17 in Washington, D.C. it was concluded to allow the full two year study funding and AID/W approved the PIC/T and PRCAG contingent on firm 24 month scheduling from July 1, 1971. Department of State Telegram 096945 dated May 19, 1971, to the American Embassy Manila requested a Critical Path Method diagram of project activities, explicit in scheduling of GOP resources including amounts and timing of local currency requirements and personnel inputs. A report showing the CPM diagram, a project study budget, and a table of personnel inputs will be submitted by June 4, 1971.

An appropriation of one million pesos was made available to NIA on May 4, 1971 for the Magat River Project feasibility study.

A follow-up letter to one of December 1970 was sent from NIA to the Bureau of Public Works requesting recording gaging stations be installed on the Magat River at the Magat damsite; at a point just below the diversion dam; and on the Magat Irrigation System main canal just below the headworks. No official report of the installations

had been received at the end of May, however it was understood that staff gages had been installed on the river below the diversion dam and in the canal.

A representative of the IBRD (World Bank) was in Manila on May 6 and at the request of the Administrator, NIA, he was given a briefing on the Magat River Project investigation. Generalities of the project were discussed and the timing of the study was reviewed. On May 11 the IBRD representative was briefed on the Upper Pampanga River Project land classification.

On ~~May~~ Da meeting was held with the GOP Bureau of Soils to discuss their interest in the land classification studies of the Magat Project. The Director, Bureau of Soils, expressed a firm interest in participating in the land classification survey. He stated that his survey crews could obtain the information the B.S. needs for their soil survey at the same time they made the required land classification. It was agreed between representatives of the NIA, the B.S. and the BuRec that such a method of land classification should be tried. On May 24 the B.S. sent 5 crews to the field and they were joined by the Project Soil Scientist. After spending 3 days on the field work discussions it became evident that several complications would arise if both a soil survey and land classification were attempted concurrently. A major complication appeared to be in timing as the concurrent study will take considerably more time than a single study of land classification. The BuRec has trained seven land classifiers on the NIA staff on the Upper Pampanga project; so a meeting was held with the Administrator, NIA on May 23 to explain the BuRec belief that the concurrent study could not be accomplished within the allotted time schedule and the BuRec advisors recommended using the NIA classifiers to do the land classification while at the same time working closely with the Bureau of Soils. The Administrator agreed that it would be desirable to use the NIA experienced men and he instructed the Project Chief to take steps to make the necessary arrangements.

A meeting was attended at NIA with representatives of two aerial survey companies to discuss obtaining aerial photos of the Magat Project service area and photos with contours of the reservoir site and dam site. Invitation for proposals were issued to the two companies asking for cost estimates of rectified photos of the service area at a scale of 1:10,000, and photos of the reservoir and damsite at a scale of 1:5,000 with 2 meter contours. Bids were submitted by the two companies on May 17. The proposals and bids were reviewed by an NIA board and a selection of contractors was made. A contract was prepared and was under review by the NIA legal staff at the end of the month. Award is expected early in June.

Specification and purchase forms were prepared by USAID and approved by the NIA for AID to acquire three field vehicles for use by the BuRet team during the Magat Project investigation.

Discussion were held with the BPW Branch of Design and Investigation on the economic survey of the Balintingan Project. A field survey of agricultural economic, including interviews of farmers, will commence early in June. A set of forms for the interviews was recommended and it was suggested that the number of interviews be held to about 100. Discussion were also held on the economic appendix of the Balog-Balog project and some procedures were recommended for preparing the appendix.

A Memorandum of May 28, 1971 to the Administrator, NIA, was prepared, discussing the needs for the data previously collected by the Central Luzon-Cagayan Valley Authority on the Magat Project.

The position of senior soil technologist, head of the newly established Land Classification Section in the Water Resources Division of the BPW, was filled by Nestor Ticson who transferred from the Bureau of Soils.

Work continued on the UPRP land classification report, including map preparation, field pH measurements, laboratory testing, and report writing. Tests were made of irrigation water quality on a water sample taken at the Main Diversion Dam on Pampanga River near Rizal. The appendix will be delayed past July due to the difficulty encountered in completing lab tests. Some chemicals ordered from the U.S. have not received.

#### Problems:

The major problem associated with the Magat Project study is the unavailability of the CLCVA data. Those data and studies must be made available before detail studies can be programmed on many phases of the study.

A soil chemist for the BPW land classification laboratory has not been hired, nor has the laboratory equipment been installed in the lab.

General Interest:

Country clearance was obtained for Cdes D. Steele for the Drainage and Groundwater Engineer position and Wayne V. Halliday for the position of Hydrologist.

John H. Steele, and wife departed from Manila on May 23, 1971 after about 13 months in the position of Hydrologist. Mr. Steele has done a commendable job in that capacity, and his assistance will be missed.

Mr. Jose del Rosario, Project Chief, NIA, Magat River Project left Manila May 30 for an 8 week trip to the United States, to review Bureau of Reclamation project investigation procedures.

The Project Engineer attended a World Health Organization seminar on environmental health and planning and financing of municipal water and sewerage works, during May 17 to May 27. The seminar was attended by representatives of 16 countries. The material presented and the discussion held were very interesting and the seminar was conducted in a very efficient manner. A report on the seminar will be issued by WHO in the near future.

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*A. L. Mitchell*