

January 10, 1919. 9890



~~Mr. C. F. Biggert,  
V. P., Wisconsin Steel Company.~~

Dear Sir:

WISCONSIN STEEL CO. - BENHAM  
WATER SUPPLY  
CO-OPERATION  
PURCHASE OF POWER EQUIPMENT

Mr. Batchelder's letter of Jan. 2/19 to you on water supply. I take it this is Mr. Dunbar's reply to me as well. It sounds like "finished business." I brought up points to make sure that you had, to the best of our ability to find out and provide, an ample and dependable source of water supply as all needs would require at the dry seasons of the year. I was quite impressed with the scantiness of water supply last August, insufficient sources and insufficient means of pumping. From what Mr. Batchelder says and from what Mr. Dunbar has heretofore said we have ample sources of water supply. I do not believe we have sufficiently reliable source of supply for the growing needs of Benham and if possible to have believe more ample sources and supply should be provided.

I have no desire to interfere or inject myself unduly into the plant engineering matters of the two Superintendents at Benham or of any Superintendent, local engineer or master mechanic. The policy in these matters is now well established with us. I want the Benham superintendents to get me right on this. I have not attempted anything further than to help and have no desire to conduct work at cross purposes with them. Furthermore, if I am to render any further assistance to Benham I want the proper spirit of cooperation from the Benham superintendents, a thing that has been very grudgingly given me by them. I have felt there was little I could do whether or no that would be right. It certainly is not an agreeable position to be endeavoring to give a man a hand and at the same time be made to feel as if one was unwelcome. As my policy in cooperating with the Works is not to throttle local interest or initiative but rather encourage it, and while I am perfectly willing to be treated by the Benham Superintendents as any outside engineer or contractor, I don't care to be made to feel I am a meddler in their affairs not coming