

The proposed small river boat channel in the Delaware River will not be built unless the city of Easton assures the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers it will support the project financially, Col. W. W. Watkin, Philadelphia district engineer for the corps, said today.

The proposed hearing on the issue Jan. 10 is merely to outline the results of a study asked for by the City of Easton in 1960, he explained.

He stressed the project could not be undertaken unless the approval of council were given.

The channel would be four feet deep, 40 feet wide and would extend approximately eight miles north of Easton and five miles south.

An alternate recommendation studied was for a more restricted area covering 4.7 miles from the Bushkill Street toll bridge in Easton southward.

Meanwhile, the proponents and opponents of the channel at the first hearings in 1965 and 1966 have not changed their stand.

Two Protagonists

Mayor George S. Smith, chief proponent, still favors, and John F. Goldsmith, Easton attorney, is still against the construction of the channel to provide a passageway for motorboats in the vicinity of Easton on the Delaware River.

Mayor-elect Fred L. Ashton Jr., who voted against the study when he was a member of council, declined to comment on the question.

An indication of the future council's position, however, was given by Thomas F. Goldsmith, councilman-elect, who said he knows other members of council who do not favor the project.

Goldsmith, whose father plans to attend the hearing in City Hall, said his father's position will in no way affect "my decision."

Cost Of Project