

Filter Plant Will Serve 3 Million

BY WALTER SUTHERLAND

Chicago is planning a gigantic Christmas present in 1960 for 3,000,000 residents of its central and North Side areas.

It is filtered water that will be supplied from the \$96,000,000 plant now partially completed just north of Navy Pier. It will serve city and suburban homes north of Pershing rd.

New land totaling 65 acres has been enclosed in a blue clay, stone and steel dike. The dike rises 8 feet above water level and varies from 10 to 20 feet in depth, according to lake bottom.

SAND PUMPED IN

One million cubic yards of sand have been pumped into the enclosure to fill it to 11 feet below lake level.

On this sand will be built settling basins, a filtration plant, pumping stations, chemical stations and a 68,000,000-gallon reservoir.

George DeMent, city commissioner of Public Works, reported construction had started on the reservoir and on two huge tunnels which will carry the filtered water to the Chicago av. and Wilson av. tunnels for distribution over the city.

The tunnels will be in solid rock, 164 to 224 feet under lake level.

PLAN LANDSCAPING

The reservoir and settling basins will be covered with dirt and landscaped, but 23 acres will be devoted to the buildings. The filtration plant will be one story high, but the pumping station and the chemical buildings will rise to 68 feet.

A Chicago architect has been commissioned to design these buildings so that they will not have an industrial look. Water for the plant will be pumped from two cribs, while additional water will flow by gravity from the lake.

Approximately 90 per cent of the solid matter will be lost in the settling basins, said George S. Salter, chief filtration engineer. The remainder will be caught in the sands of the filter itself, and the pure water will flow into the reservoir and then into the city mains.