



**International Joint Commission
United States and Canada**

June 12, 2003

International Joint Commission

ACTION:
INFORMATION: LB, JC, PJ
FILE: 9-3
Order of approval for St. Mary
and Milk Rivers

The Honorable Judy Martz
Governor of Montana
State Capitol
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Dear Governor Martz:

This letter is in further response to your letter of April 10, 2003, asking us to review our 1921 Order for the St. Mary and Milk Rivers in Montana, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

As you know, the Commission has committed to reviewing Orders over which it has continuing jurisdiction. It has already conducted such reviews in the St. Croix River and Rainy Lake basins, is currently conducting reviews in the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River basin and for Duck Lake, and is planning to conduct a review for the Upper Great Lakes, pending funding. These reviews have allowed the Commission to consider such things as changed conditions and new interests, scientific and technical advances since the Order, and potential climate change and variability. Small reviews have been conducted with Commission-supplied funding and focused agency support, while larger reviews have required funding supplied jointly by the two governments and broader agency support. Of the two completed reviews, one resulted in a change to the Commission's Orders, while the other did not.

The Commission is exploring whether or not to conduct a review of its 1921 Order, as requested. As part of that process, we plan to be in contact with key officials in both countries. We intend, through these initial contacts, to gain a more fulsome understanding of issues and concerns, as well as likely resource requirements should the Commission decide to undertake a review. We will keep you informed of our progress and findings.

Similar letters, along with a copy of your April 10, 2003 letter, are being sent to the U.S. Secretary of State, the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Premiers of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and the two Accredited Officers. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact us.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray, P.C., Q.C.
Chair, Canadian Section

The Hon. Dennis L. Schornack
Chair, United States Section