

International Joint Commission
Canada and United States

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



Commission mixte internationale
Canada et États-Unis

Le très hon. Herb Gray, C.P., C.C., C.R.
Président, Section canadienne

February 26, 2004

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Database: Main
Docket: St. Mary and Milk Rivers
Type: IJC Letter
Subject: Letter to Halvar Jonson regarding apportionment of the
St. Mary and Milk Rivers
Action:
Email: LB, JK
Hard Copies: DS, AO, IB
File Hard Copy: 9-3

The Honourable Halvar C. Jonson
Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations
Government of Alberta
10800 - 97 Avenue
Room 228
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Jonson:

As you are aware, the Commission has been considering the letters of the Governor of Montana requesting the Commission to review its 1921 Order with respect to apportionment of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers that was issued pursuant to the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. The Commission has also received correspondence regarding this matter from the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

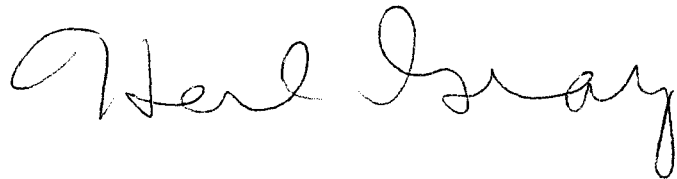
This correspondence and other information raise several issues regarding water use and apportionment and planned water projects in the St. Mary and Milk River basins. In order to gather additional information regarding this situation and to help the Commission decide how best to proceed on all of the matters that have been raised in light of its responsibilities under the Treaty, the Commission has decided to hold a series of public consultations in the area during the coming summer.

While details of these consultations are not yet available, the Commission wants you to be aware of how it intends to proceed. Additional information on the timing, locations and format of these consultations will be provided in due course.

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The Commission will also be keeping the Governor of Montana, the province of Saskatchewan and the governments of the United States and Canada informed regarding its plans for addressing issues related to the apportionment of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herb Gray". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.

The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray, P.C., C.C., Q.C.

c.c. The Honorable Dennis Schornack, Chair, U.S. Section/IJC

HG/tMcA