

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.
President, Section canadienne

June 25, 2004

The Honourable David Forbes
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Victoria Place
111 Fairford Street East
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
S6H 7X9

Dear Mr. Forbes:

I refer to your letter of March 25, 2004 concerning the public consultations that the International Joint Commission (IJC) plans to hold next month to assist it in deciding how best to proceed with the request from Montana for changes in the Order that the IJC issued in 1921 to implement Article VI of the Boundary Waters Treaty.

The Commission has decided to hold these consultations in Alberta, Montana, and Saskatchewan at the following places and times:

July 26, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Montana State University - Northern
Ballroom, Student Union Building
300 11th Street West
Havre, Montana
(406) 265-3732

July 27, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Malta High School Auditorium
South 9th Street West
Malta, Montana
(406) 654-2002

July 28, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
T-Rex Discovery Centre Theatre
Eastend, Saskatchewan
(306) 295-4009

July 29, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Lethbridge Lodge Ballroom
320 Scenic Drive
Lethbridge, Alberta
(403) 328-1123

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These meetings are not Commission hearings of the kind that the Commission normally holds before changing one of its formal decisions. The Commission will provide governments and all interested persons with further opportunities to make their views known to the Commission before the Commission considers any changes to its 1921 Order.

At this time, the Commission is looking for the best way to consider Montana's request, and the Commission would find it very helpful, in this context, to hear the views of all concerned and to obtain further background information that may be relevant to the questions that Montana has raised.

At the beginning of each meeting, a Commissioner will outline the IJC's responsibilities and the terms of the 1921 Order, and the Accredited Officers will speak about how they are implementing the Order and the situation in the St Mary and Milk River basins as they see it. The meetings will then be open to everyone who is interested in this matter and speakers will be recognized on a first-come-first-heard basis. As the time for each speaker will be limited, it would be helpful if you or your officials could provide their detailed comments in writing and be prepared to present a brief summary of those comments to the Commission at the consultation sessions.

To assist persons attending these meetings, the Commission is posting information on its website about Article VI of the Boundary Waters Treaty, the Commission's 1921 Order, and copies of correspondence which the Commission has received from governments and others with respect to this matter. If public access to the Internet is not available in any community where meetings will be held, this information will also be deposited in a library or other public place in that community.

Similar letters are being sent to the Canadian and United States governments, and to the governments of Montana and Alberta.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Herb Gray". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

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