

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

APPLICATION
OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE
APPROVAL OF CERTAIN CONTEMPLATED
IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ST. CLAIR RIVER
AT PORT HURON, MICH.

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INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION.

APPLICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE
APPROVAL OF CERTAIN CONTEMPLATED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ST.
CLAIR RIVER, AT PORT HURON, MICH.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE;
Washington, December 27, 1916.

The Hon. OBADIAH GARDNER,
*Chairman United States Section, International Joint Commis-
sion, Southern Building, Washington, D. C.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith, for submission to the
International Joint Commission, a letter addressed to it by this
department, relative to certain contemplated improvements in the
St. Clair River along the water front of Port Huron, Mich.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) ROBERT LANSING.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 27, 1916.

The honorable the INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION,
*United States and Canada,
Southern Building, Washington, D. C.*

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a
letter of December 15, 1916, from the Secretary of War, with refer-
ence to certain contemplated improvements in the St. Clair River
along the water front of Port Huron, Mich. It appears from this
letter that the construction of the proposed improvements, in accord-
ance with a plan and project set forth in House Document No. 782,
Sixty-fourth Congress, first session, was authorized by Congress in
the so-called rivers and harbors bill, which was approved July 27,
1916. Copies of these two documents, together with two blue prints
showing the nature of the proposed improvements, are inclosed
herewith.

It appears from the letter of the Secretary of War that the con-
templated changes would, if made, affect the natural level of the

St. Clair River on the Canadian side of the international boundary, as well as the level of Lake Huron, and that, therefore, the project is one which, under the terms of Article III of the Boundary Waters Convention which was concluded between the United States and Great Britain on January 11, 1909, can be carried out only with the approval of the International Joint Commission. The Secretary of War requests such approval.

It is presumed that the documents inclosed herewith will be found by the commission to contain all the necessary information regarding the facts upon which this application is based and the nature of the order of approval desired, and that this communication will be regarded by the commission as fulfilling the requirements of paragraph (a) of rule 6 and of rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the commission.

A copy of this communication is being forwarded to the Secretary of War, whose attention is being invited to the provisions of rule 7 of these Rules of Procedure, and it is presumed that the required additional copies of this application will be supplied by his department in due course.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

ROBERT LANSING.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 15, 1916.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE.

SIR: In the river and harbor act of July 27, 1916, Congress made an appropriation for improving St. Clair River by securing a channel along the water front of Port Huron, Mich., in accordance with a plan and project set forth in House Document No. 782, Sixty-fourth Congress, first session.

The plan of improvement thus approved and provided for contemplates the dredging of a channel 400 feet wide and 21 feet deep near the American shore, from a point about 1,500 feet above the mouth of Black River to within about 1,000 feet from the International Tunnel, and the construction of a sill, or compensating work, at a distance of about 2,000 feet below the said tunnel. The sill is to be built of broken stone backed up with dredged material, and is to be about 3 feet high, extending from the high-water line on the American shore to the same elevation on the Canadian side. The object of the improvement is to provide a channel for downbound vessels so that the present channel near the Canadian shore can be used exclusively for upbound traffic.

Careful calculations indicate that the digging of the channel would cause a permanent lowering of Lake Huron to the extent of about one-half inch, unless compensated for; and that a sill 3 feet high, located as proposed, will give sufficient contraction to compensate for the excavation. The location of the proposed channel and compensating work is shown on the accompanying drawing, and for a description of the work and its authorization, reference is made to the aforesaid document and act of Congress, copies of which are herewith [enclosed].

As the project is one affecting the natural level or flow of boundary waters, it appears to come within the purview of Article III of the Boundary Waters treaty of January 11, 1909, between the United States and Great Britain, and to require the approval of the International Joint Commission antecedent to its accomplishment.

I have the honor to ask that the matter be referred to that commission for consideration and approval.

Very respectfully,

NEWTON D. BAKER,
Secretary of War.

[PUBLIC—No. 168—64TH CONGRESS.]

[H. R. 12193.]

An Act Making appropriations for the construction, repair, and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums of money be, and are hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be immediately available, and to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War, and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers, for the construction, completion, repair, and preservation of the public works hereinafter named:

* * * * *

Ship channel connecting waters of the Great Lakes between Chicago, Duluth, and Buffalo: For maintenance of improvement through Lake Saint Clair, \$108,325: Provided, That of this amount the sum of \$83,325 may be expended for the purpose of securing a channel in Saint Clair River along the water front of Port Huron, Michigan, in accordance with the report printed in House Document Numbered Seven hundred and eighty-two, Sixty-fourth Congress, first session.

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Approved July 27, 1916.