

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



January 12, 1951

The International Joint Commission,
Washington, D. C., United States of America; and
Ottawa, Ontario, Dominion of Canada.

Sirs:

1. The Government of the United States hereby submits to the International Joint Commission, under the provisions of Article IV of the Treaty of January 11, 1909, between the United States and Great Britain, this application requesting that the Commission give consideration to such effects, as the construction and operation of a dam and reservoir herein referred to as "Libby Dam" on the Kootenai (1) River near Libby, Montana, may have on levels or stages of the said Kootenai River at and above the international boundary between the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada, and the consequences thereof; and that the Commission enter an appropriate order in the premises, expressly approving the construction and operation of the said Libby Dam and reservoir.

2. Under the Flood Control Act of 1950 (Public Law 516, 81st Congress), approved 17 May 1950, a project designated as "Libby Dam, Kootenai River, Montana" was "adopted and authorized to be prosecuted under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers." Attached hereto and marked Annex A is an application dated December 1, 1950, addressed to the Secretary of State by Major General Lewis A. Pick, Chief of Engineers, setting forth the details of the Libby Dam Project. The Secretary of the Army has approved this application and has forwarded it to the Department of State for presentation to your Commission.

3. Particular attention is invited to the following important aspects of this Libby Dam Project:

a. The

(1) Spelled Kootenai in the United States, Kootenay in Canada

a. The Committee on Commerce of the United States Senate on September 24, 1943 adopted a resolution which reads in part as follows:

"Resolved by the Committee on Commerce of the United States Senate, That the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, created under Section 3 of the River and Harbor Act, approved June 13, 1902, be, and is hereby requested to review the reports on Columbia River and Tributaries submitted under the provisions of House Document Numbered 308, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session, as authorized by the River and Harbor Act of January 21, 1927, with a view to determining whether any modification of existing projects or recommended comprehensive plans of improvement should be made at this time."

b. Pursuant to this authorization the United States proposed that the cooperation of the Government of Canada in comprehensive studies of the Columbia River Basin be obtained through a reference to the International Joint Commission under Article IX of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. The reference to this Commission by the two governments under date of March 9, 1944 resulted and exhaustive studies of the Columbia River Basin were made by the International Columbia River Engineering Board.

c. On November 1, 1950, the International Columbia River Engineering Board submitted to your Commission a report entitled: "Interim Report on Kootenay River." Particular attention is invited to the detailed information contained in this report respecting this project. The report contained the following recommendation:

"In view of the foregoing and of the reference directive, the Board recommends that the normal forebay elevation of 2,459 feet above mean sea level be approved for the Libby project and that the Bull River project be an element of the comprehensive plan of development."

d. The reservoir would be approximately 100 miles long and from one-half to one and one-half miles wide. It would extend 42 miles into Canada to the tailwater of the Bull River dam site, which is about 5 miles upstream from Wardner, British Columbia. With a full Libby reservoir the depth of water at the international boundary would be 150 feet. The reservoir will occupy approximately 51,500 acres, of which 17,700 acres are in Canada. In the Canadian portion, the reservoir would flood a few small communities and

farms,

farms, and some secondary roads. In addition, it would necessitate the raising of the Canadian Pacific Railway Crows Nest line and No. 3 highway for short distances. The reservoir would have a gross storage capacity of 6,730,000 acre-feet, of which approximately 1,000,000 acre-feet would be in Canada. The usable storage capacity at 35 percent drawdown (128 feet) would be 4,620,000 acre-feet of which 980,000 acre-feet would be in Canada.

e. The dam would be a straight concrete gravity structure rising about 425 feet above bed rock. It would be about 2,440 feet long at the top and 1,200 feet long at the base. The head provided for hydroelectric development at the site would be 366 feet at normal full pool elevation. An overflow spillway in line with the existing river channel, equipped with gates, would have a capacity of 200,000 cubic feet per second. For flood control operation of the dam a sufficient number of sluices would be provided to permit, when combined with the flow through three of the powerhouse units, a total release of 60,000 cubic feet per second when the power pool is fully drawn down.

f. The powerhouse would be located at the downstream toe of the dam near the left abutment. The initial installation would consist of six generating units rated at 103,000 kilowatts each, or a total of 618,000 kilowatts. The ultimate installation would consist of ten such units, or a total installation of 1,030,000 kilowatts.

g. The estimated cost of construction is \$242,000,000 of which approximately \$5,500,000 is the estimated cost of providing the portion of the reservoir in Canada, and approximately \$236,500,000 is the cost of the dam and the portion of the reservoir in the United States.

h. The project would provide much needed flood control and power benefits in both Canada and the United States.

4. Accordingly, the Government of the United States asks that the International Joint Commission approve the Libby Dam Project and the proposed method of operation of the reservoir to elevation 2459 feet above mean sea level.

5. This communication will, it is believed, be found by the Commission to contain all essential averments regarding the facts upon which this application is based and the nature of the order of approval desired, and to be in conformity with the provisions of Paragraph (a) of Rule 6 and with Rule 7 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure.

6. In .

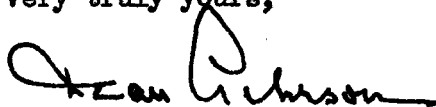
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6. In submitting this application to the Commission, the hope is expressed, on behalf of the United States, that in view of the importance of the matters involved and the exigent need for immediate action, the Commission will expedite its consideration thereof and its action thereon in order that the project works and the plan of operation thereof may receive the approval of the Commission with the least possible delay.

7. Attached to Annex A of this application and made a part thereof are the maps and drawings showing the situation and extent of the project works.

The required additional copies of the application are being forwarded to you under separate cover.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jean Robinson".

Enclosure:

Annex A.