



IJC Virtual Information Session on Transboundary Water Pollution in the Elk-Kootenai/y Watershed

International Joint Commission

May 30, 2024

6:30pm – 7:30pm MDT

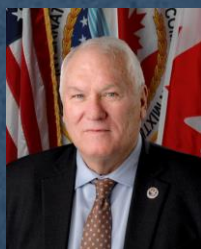
5:30pm – 6:30pm PDT



The International Joint Commission



Gerald Acker
U.S. Co-Chair



Lance Yohe
United States



Robert Gioia
United States



Merrell-Ann Phare
Canadian Co-Chair



Susan Chiblow
Canada

Six Commissioners

*Appointed by President (U.S.) or Governor-General on advice from Prime Minister (CAN)



Ottawa, ON
Canadian Section



Windsor, ON
Great Lakes Regional Office



Washington, DC
U.S. Section

Three offices support IJC Commissioners and programs

*GLRO jointly funded by Governments of Canada and U.S.



> 200 interagency and local people working on IJC boards, committees, and advisory groups across the boundary region



What does the IJC do?

It assists the U.S. and Canada to Prevent and Resolve Disputes Over Shared Waters

As per the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, the IJC:

- Sets conditions for projects that use, obstruct or divert boundary waters, or other waters crossing the boundary
- Investigates and reports on question or matters of difference ("References")

IJC has received more than 120 applications and references



How Does the IJC Operate?



16 Boards & Committees



> 200 people working on IJC boards, committees, and advisory groups

- 7 Control Boards
- 4 Watershed Boards
- 2 Great Lakes Advisory Boards
- 1 Study Board
- 1 Transboundary Advisory Board
- 1 Cross-cutting Committee



Background of Elk-Kootenai/y Reference



Long history of transboundary water pollution in the Elk-Kootenai/y watershed

IJC's responsibilities under the Reference include:

- (a) assisting the six named governments (the United States, Canada, the Ktunaxa Nation, the Province of British Columbia, and the States of Montana and Idaho), in the establishment of a Governance Body;
- (b) convening experts and knowledge holders in a Study Board to develop a common understanding of pollution within the Elk-Kootenai/y watershed and the impacts of that pollution on people and species.

For more information visit: www.ijc.org/elk



Governance Body



The Governance Body

A governments' collaborative forum to develop and report on an action plan to reduce and mitigate the impacts of water pollution in the Elk-Kootenai/y watershed

Parties Involved

- United States and Canada
- Ktunaxa Nation
- The Province of British Columbia, and the States of Montana and Idaho

Terms of Reference

The six named Governments will develop a Terms of Reference by June 30, 2024.



Study Board

- Study Board to be established in Fall 2024
- Comprised of experts and knowledge holders to conduct transparent and coordinated transboundary data and knowledge sharing
- The Study Board is to develop a final report and recommendations by Fall 2026



Current Activities



March 2024

Kick-off meeting with all six governments

April 2024

IJC led bilateral meetings with senior officials with all six governments to gather their initial perspectives to develop the Governance Body

Next Steps

Series of meetings with the six governments to draft the Governance Body *Terms of Reference*



Next Steps -- Governance Body

- Review reports and recommendations from the IJC's Study Board.
- Identify opportunities to reduce and mitigate the impacts of water pollution.
- Identify and recommend actions and resources needed to fill priority data, monitoring, research, and reporting needs.
- Develop an action plan to reduce and mitigate the impacts of water pollution in the Kootenai/y watershed to protect the people and species.
- Report on progress towards implementing these objectives.



Next Steps -- Study Board

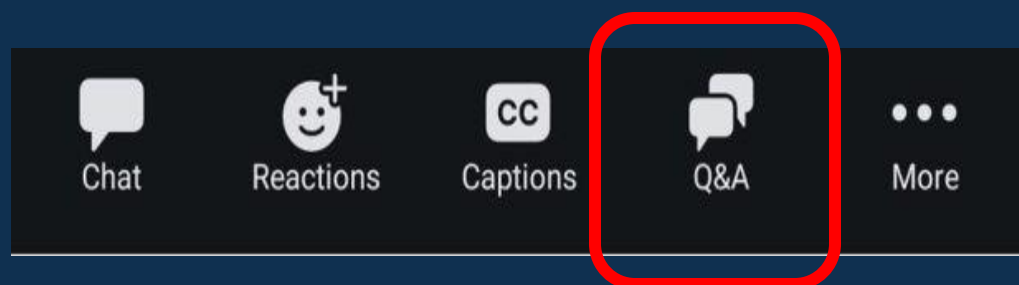
- Report and make recommendations in a transparent and publicly available format.
- Conduct transparent and coordinated transboundary data and knowledge sharing.
- Share, synthesize and analyze existing data and information to support a common understanding of pollution within the Kootenay watershed and the impact of that pollution on people and species.
- Develop a final report and recommendations.



Questions & Answers Period

Questions submitted during the registration will be addressed first.

To submit questions during the meeting please use the Q&A function.



Click Q&A

After the event questions and comments can also be submitted to

elk@ijc.org



Thank you!

www.ijc.org/elk

elk@ijc.org