

imposed by a licence under the International Rivers Improvements Act."

One of the "Terms and Conditions" included in the licence issued by the Federal Minister of the Environment to the Saskatchewan Power Corporation under the International Rivers Improvements Act states that "the licensee shall construct, operate and maintain the improvement in such manner as shall not contravene any provision of the International Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909."

Another condition of the licence states that "the licensee shall comply with such terms and conditions relating to water apportionment as may be imposed by the Minister, following a recommendation by the International Joint Commission and acceptance thereof by Canada and the United States of America". The IJC, through its International Souris-Red Rivers Engineering Board is currently carrying out an apportionment study of the waters in the Poplar River Basin in the context of a Reference on the Souris and Red River Basins submitted to the Commission in 1948.

Technical discussions are continuing concerning potential effects of the project on air quality. This aspect of the problem is also currently under study by the IJC's Air Pollution Advisory Board constituted under an earlier reference by the Governments of Canada and the United States. The Board's report is expected to be completed in the near future.

Another transboundary environmental problem to which the Boundary Waters Treaty is applicable concerns the Skagit Valley in British Columbia, although in this case flooding and not pollution is involved. The roots of the problem date back to 1941 when the City of Seattle applied to the International Joint Commission under the terms of the Boundary Waters Treaty for authority to raise the water level of the Skagit River by increasing the height of the Ross Dam in the State of Washington, the effect of which would be to flood approximately 5,475 acres of land in British Columbia. In a 1942 Order the Commission gave its approval subject to certain conditions, one of which was that Seattle adequately compensate Canadian interests that might be affected. In 1967 British Columbia and Seattle concluded a binding compensation agreement. Since 1967 public concern over the environment has increased and British Columbia is now opposed to the proposed flooding, a position which is supported by the Government of Canada.