

At this point, I would like the Commission to hear the testimony of two Environment Canada experts concerning the adverse effects that the Government of Canada has concluded will result if the Garrison project, as currently envisaged, is completed and put into operation. *

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As you are aware, these hearings are being held as a result of an agreement between the Governments of Canada and the United States to request the International Joint Commission to examine the transboundary implications of the Garrison project and to make recommendations as to such measures as might be taken to assist Governments in ensuring that the provisions of Article IV of the Boundary Waters Treaty are honoured. The key to the Commission's mandate in completing this task is found in paragraph 4 of the Reference.

The Commission will itself have to decide the extent to which the project as conceived at present will cause injury to health or property in Canada. In this context, it was the Canadian Government's intention that the terms of reference be broad enough to enable the Commission to recommend, inter alia, and depending on its findings, the discontinuance of any or all features of the Garrison project which would result in a violation of the Boundary Waters Treaty. Although it is understood that consideration is being given in the United States to alternatives to those aspects of the Garrison project that would adversely affect Canada, the Government of Canada has not yet been officially informed of these alternatives.

The International Joint Commission is an independent and impartial body with a long history of assistance to the Canadian and United States Governments in resolving transboundary problems. We are confident that its recommendations will be most helpful to both Canada and the United States in the present task of ensuring that the provisions of the Boundary Waters Treaty are fully honoured.

In closing, I would like to submit for the study of the Commission technical papers by Canadian officials on the Garrison project. In view of the early deadline for the Commission's report set in the Reference, the Commission might find such information and technical data useful for the conduct of its investigation and the preparation of its report.

* Copies of the testimony may be obtained through Environment Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3.