

It was noted that the IJC under references previously issued by the two Governments is studying the potential air pollution and water apportionment aspects related to the project. It is expected that the Commission will be providing its recommendations to Governments shortly. Both sides indicated that they would take full account of these recommendations.

The Saskatchewan authorities agreed that the acquisition of air pollution abatement equipment for the project would not take place within the next six months. In this context, it was also agreed that, within the next three months, following completion of studies which currently are being conducted by the IJC and by Canadian and Saskatchewan government agencies, a further meeting would be held at the technical level to review the transboundary implications of the project's possible effects on air quality.

Both sides welcomed the recent IJC decision instructing its International Souris-Red Rivers Engineering Board to carry out an apportionment study of the waters in the Poplar River Basin, recognizing that this would allow governments on both sides to plan appropriately for the further development of this shared resource.

The Saskatchewan authorities described the need to have the dam closed by spring 1976 in time for the spring runoff. In this regard, the Canadian side took note of the U.S. concern that, on the basis of this timetable, the reservoir would likely be in place prior to the completion of the IJC water apportionment study of the Poplar River Basin. It was agreed that additional steps be taken to address the relevant aspects of the water apportionment problem prior to the completion of the IJC study.

The transboundary implications of the project for water quality in the Poplar River Basin were discussed. Both sides recognized that further studies in this area were required and agreed to a mutual exchange of water quality data from both sides of the border.

The meeting was opened by the Honourable Neil Byers, Saskatchewan Minister of the Environment. The Canadian delegation included representatives from the Department of External Affairs, Environment Canada, the Saskatchewan Department of the Environment, the Saskatchewan Power Corporation and other officials in the Saskatchewan Government. The United States delegation included Montana Lieutenant-Governor, William Christiansen, representatives of the State Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences.