public are Greenpeace Canada, the Sierra Club of Western Canada, Friends of the Oldman River, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Ecology Action Centre and various native groups. The first successful challenges were to the Rafferty and Alameda Dams in Saskatchewan, the Oldman River Dam in Alberta, the Point Aconi coal-fired power generating station in Nova Scotia and the enlargement of the hydroelectric water reservoir on the Nechako River in British Columbia (the Kemano II Expansion Project) (Glenn 1992). The activism of the federal courts was revealed in its interpretation of the rules governing EARPs found in a "Guidelines Order" (SOR/84-467) issued by the federal Department of the Environment. If read literally, the Guidelines Order treated environmental assessment reviews as entirely discretionary (Hoberg 1993, 325). The Federal Court of Canada, however, in <u>Canadian Wildlife Federation</u> (1989) read the language loosely, finding assessment reviews by the federal government to be mandatory under the Guidelines Order. The court came directly into conflict with the Mulroney administration, which sought to avoid Trudeau-like confrontations with the provinces. The Prime Minister's policy was to delegate federal environmental review responsibilities to the provinces under the assumption that duplication of reviews was wasteful (Skogstad and Kopas 1992, 315). The Federal Court insisted that the federal government fulfill its responsibility by conducting its own reviews (Glenn 1992, 70-73).

This broad reading of the Guidelines Order represented significant activism on the part of the Federal Court of Canada and forced the federal government to conduct full-scale environmental assessments where it strongly preferred not to. The Court's ruling, moreover, meant that Ottawa would have to undertake an EARP in the case of every large-scale construction project in Canada. In a departure from the American model, however, the Federal Court refused to stay construction of these projects until the EARP had been completed. Because the report of