

RATIFICATION OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY

(Attachment No. 1)

Historical Background

The history of the Columbia River Treaty dates back to 1944 when the International Joint Commission, at the request of the governments of Canada and the United States, undertook investigations to determine whether further development of the water resources of the Columbia River basin would be practical and advantageous to both countries.

An Engineering Board set up by the Commission submitted a report in March, 1959, which indicated that there were a number of sites in Canada suitable for the construction of large storage reservoirs that could be used to regulate the Columbia River for this purpose. The report did not suggest how the benefits produced in the United States from storage projects upstream in Canada might be shared by the two countries.

In January, 1959, however, the two governments had asked the I.J.C. to make a special report on this problem. The Commission's recommendations were submitted in December of that year. Negotiations between the two governments on the selection of the best possible sites for storage dams, and the apportionment of the benefits to be derived from them, began in February, 1960, and terminated with the signing of the Columbia River Treaty on January 17, 1961.

On March 16, 1961, the United States Senate adopted a resolution approving the Treaty. However, ratification did not take place in Canada, and following the Hyannis Port