



communiqué

REFERENCE

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CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES AGREE TO POPLAR RIVER WATER QUALITY REFERENCE

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Governments of Canada and the United States have submitted a joint Reference to the International Joint Commission to undertake a study of water quality in the Poplar River, on which the Saskatchewan Power Corporation is currently constructing a thermal power station. The Province of Saskatchewan participated in the development of the terms of the Reference. The report of the Commission is to be based upon the plans of the Corporation for a 600 megawatt facility.

Under the Reference, the Commission has been requested to examine into and report upon the water quality of the Poplar River, including the transboundary water quality implications of the power station and its ancillary works, including coal mining. It has been requested to make recommendations to assist governments in ensuring that the provisions of the Boundary Waters Treaty are honoured. The Commission has been requested to report to Governments by December 1, 1978.

Canadian and United States authorities have already established an international water quality monitoring network in the Poplar River Basin. In its application to the Canadian Government for a licence under the International River Improvement Act for the construction of a dam on the Poplar River, the Saskatchewan Power Corporation undertook to comply with the Boundary Waters Treaty and to carry out a wide range of water quality studies, which will be of use to the Commission in its study.

The text of the Reference can be obtained from the International Joint Commission, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa, KIP 5H3