

The Honourable A.J. MacEachen,
P.C., M.P.

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factor. The Board Chairmen emphasized to the Commission that there are no shortcuts available to the Board in this respect. Completion of the work of the other committees of the Board, with the exception of the Water Quantity Committee, must await the receipt of approved water quality data from the Water Quality Committee.

The Board has now advised the Commission that it will submit a "camera-ready" copy of its report to the Commission by the end of October. A few copies will be made immediately and forwarded to the two Governments. Since the Board's final report with Appendices will likely be several thousand pages in length, the reproduction in quantity will be time-consuming. The Commission is making advance arrangements for printing the various segments of the Board's report as each is completed and approved by the Board. We hope to make public distribution of the complete report of the Board by mid-December.

Because of the tremendous interest this study has on both sides of the boundary by public entities and private groups and individuals alike, the Commission is concerned that everyone be given ample opportunity to consider the substantial body of information in the Board's report before public hearings are held. The Commission is therefore allowing almost two months for public consideration, which includes the Christmas - New Year period when little public review is probable. It proposes to hold several public hearings in both countries about mid-February, 1977.

The Commission will prepare its final report following the public hearings and will transmit it to the Governments as soon as possible. In all likelihood, copies will not be available for public distribution before June, 1977.

Recognizing the importance that both Governments attach to this matter, the Chairman of each Section of the Commission will be meeting with representatives of his Government in order to discuss the implications of this delay.