



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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The Department of External Affairs today announced that, following discussions between the authorities of the United States and Canada, arrangements have been made in both countries regarding the customs and immigration procedures to be applied in furtherance of the construction of the cofferdams to be erected in the St. Lawrence Power Project.

Cofferdams are the first major item of construction in the development of power on the St. Lawrence River, which is being undertaken jointly by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario and the Power Authority of the State of New York. A number of cofferdams are to be erected in the vicinity of Iroquois, Long Sault Rapids and Barnhart Island as a preliminary to the construction of the dams and powerhouses at those three points. The cofferdams will cross the International Boundary and it was therefore considered desirable to adopt special customs and immigration arrangements in order to facilitate their construction.

Generally speaking, the arrangements in each country are the following:

Materials. Customs duties and taxes will be waived with respect to materials brought into either country for incorporation in the cofferdams. However, customs or tax exemption will not be granted in respect of materials to be incorporated in the approaches.

Equipment. Duties and taxes will not be payable on new or used equipment (except vessels) brought into either country for the construction of cofferdams, if such equipment is exported upon completion of such use. If equipment remains in the country, on completion of such use, duties and taxes will be levied on the appraised valuation of the equipment upon completion of its use at the cofferdams.

Labour. All persons employed in either country (but not their dependents) will be freely admitted to a delimited zone in the other country, in the general area of the power project, so long as they comply with regulations of the two countries.

Additional details about these arrangements can be obtained from the appropriate Department or agencies of either Government. For the Government of Canada, the principal Departments concerned are the Departments of National Revenue and Citizenship and Immigration. Information as to United States customs and immigration procedures can be obtained from the Collector of Customs at Ogdensburg or from the District Director of Immigration at St. Albans, Vermont.

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