

The Treaty, together with the related implementing Agreements, represents a Settlement that will be in force for a period of eighty (80) years and which will ensure that flooding of the Skagit Valley by the City of Seattle will not take place. In return, British Columbia will supply electrical power to Seattle equivalent to that which would have been generated had the Ross Dam been raised. As payment, British Columbia will receive payments from Seattle equivalent to the cost of constructing, operating and maintaining the Dam.

The Treaty was negotiated under the aegis of a Joint Consultative Group on the Skagit, chaired by Commissioners Olson (Canada) and Bulen (the United States) of the International Joint Commission. The Group included senior officials of the Governments of Canada, the United States and British Columbia, as well as the City of Seattle.

The Skagit Settlement coincides with the seventy-fifth (75th) anniversary of the International Joint Commission, and fittingly underlines the usefulness of the Commission in resolving important bilateral environmental issues and the role that it plays in supporting and fostering Canada-United States relations. The International Joint Commission, which was created under the provisions of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, has long been regarded as a valued tool by both governments for the cooperative management of boundary waters and for ensuring that close and friendly relations between the two countries are maintained.