



communiqué

N°:
No.: 91

June 1, 1984

SKAGIT RIVER VALLEY TREATY

IMPLEMENTATION ACT

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced that a Bill to implement the Treaty between Canada and the United States relating to the Skagit River and Ross Lake, and the Seven Mile Reservoir on the Pend d'Oreille River was introduced in the House of Commons on May 31.

The Bill is intended to enable the Government to bring into force the Skagit River Valley Treaty, which was signed by Mr. MacEachen and United States Secretary of State, George Shultz, on April 2, 1984. The Treaty is part of a Settlement package which also includes a British Columbia-Seattle Agreement (the basic settlement document) and a Canada-British Columbia Agreement (which defines the roles and responsibilities of the federal and provincial governments under the terms of the Settlement).

The Bill provides legislative authority for the export of electric power to the United States by British Columbia for a period of eighty years - the National Energy Board Act now limits the authority of the Governor-in-Council to approve such exports for a maximum of twenty-five years - and for a federal guarantee to discharge the financial obligations of British Columbia in the event of the Province's failure to do so.

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