

Text of Note from Canadian Embassy to State Department, February 13, 1975

The Canadian Embassy presents its compliments to the Department of State and has the honour to refer to the department's Note of February 10 concerning the proposed Poplar River Power Project of the Saskatchewan Government. The Embassy wishes to assure the Department that the Canadian authorities have taken careful note of possible United States concerns in relation to this project. In this connection the Embassy can confirm that, notwithstanding the impression which may be conveyed in the study outlines of the project, the construction of the proposed dam has not yet begun.

The Embassy wishes to inform the Department that before the project proceeds to the construction stage, the Province of Saskatchewan is required to make formal application for a licence from the federal Minister of the Environment under the International Rivers Improvements Act. It is a requirement of the regulations issued under this Act that an assessment of transboundary effects be undertaken before any licence can be issued. Moreover, it is possible to include conditions in any such licence which will ensure that the project is so operated as to meet Canada's obligations under the Boundary Waters Treaty. If a licence were issued, it would be the intention of the Canadian authorities to include conditions which would be required to enable Canada's obligations to be met.

The Canadian authorities have also noted the Department's request for an early meeting between the two countries on this issue. It is understood that Saskatchewan will shortly complete its studies of the transboundary implications of the project. Accordingly, it is suggested that this meeting be arranged at a mutually convenient date once these studies are complete. The Canadian authorities will at that time suggest a specific time and place for the meeting.