"Subsequent to the Reference, the IJC's International Garrison Diversion Study Board proposed an improved fish screen at McClusky Canal and a closed system of water transport. Despite these two lines of defense to prevent a transfer of biota from the Missouri River Basin across the international boundary to the Hudson Bay drainage system, the Commission concluded that because of possible overland flow from accidents or for other reasons, although unlikely, the modified fish screen and closed system cannot be relied upon. Because the predicted impacts of a biological transfer from the Missouri River to the Hudson Bay Drainage system are so potentially damaging, a sufficient guarantee against such an occurrence must be provided.

"While it is conceded that most of the adverse impacts on Canada can be mitigated with the various modifications proposed since the Project was envisaged, those impacts from possible biota transfers (fish, fish eggs, parasites, etc.) and fish diseases are so threatening that the only acceptable policy at present, according to the Commission's conclusions, is to delay construction of those features of the Garrison Diversion Unit which might result in such transfers, until the question of biota and fish diseases transfer is agreed to be no longer a matter of concern to the Governments.

"However, with regard to another part of the Project, the Commission concluded that Lonetree Reservoir and its dams could be constructed without an unacceptable risk to Canada, if all outlet works from the Reservoir are located so as to discharge only into the Missouri River Basin (James River) and if fishing in the Reservoir is forbidden.

"With regard to the problem of salinity, the Commission concluded that the concentrations of total dissolved solids in the return flows to Canada could be reduced by removing irrigable areas with highly saline soils from the Project and replacing them with a similar acreage of soils less saline. However, this would not improve the situation with respect to nitrates.

"The IJC further concluded that seepage from the Velva Canal would be reduced by lining those areas of the Canal where necessary. This would decrease the amount and concentration of total dissolved solids in the return flows attributable to the Velva Canal.

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