

Representatives of the Governments of the United States and Canada and of the Governments of the State of Montana and the Province of Saskatchewan met in Washington on July 12, 1976 to discuss transfrontier water quality impacts of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation's thermal generation project. In an earlier meeting held in Regina, Saskatchewan, on March 5, governments had agreed to the need for a formal mechanism to address water quality issues, and today's meeting centred on a proposal to refer water quality questions to the International Joint Commission.

A full exchange of views took place, and ad referendum agreement was reached that governments would negotiate terms of a joint water quality reference to the International Joint Commission. The Commission, established by the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, has assisted governments in studying mutual environmental problems along the common boundary. Both sides agreed to proceed as promptly as possible with consideration of exact terms of reference.

The United States delegation was composed of representatives from the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Montana. The Canadian delegation was composed of representatives from the Department of External Affairs, the Canadian Embassy in Washington, Environment Canada, and the Province of Saskatchewan.