

Consultative Group on the Skagit chaired by Commissioners Olson (Canada) and Bulen (USA) of the International Joint Commission, which included representatives of the Governments of Canada, the USA, British Columbia, as well as the City of Seattle.

The Skagit River Treaty, together with related implementing Agreements involving the City of Seattle, the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada, will be in force for a period of 80 years and ensures that flooding of the Skagit Valley into British Columbia will not take place. In return, B.C. will supply electric power to the City of Seattle equivalent to that which would have been generated had the Ross Dam been raised. As payment for the electrical power, B.C. will receive payments equivalent to the cost of building and maintaining the dam.

The signing ceremony represents acceptance by both Governments of the Treaty and opens the way for the Canadian and United States Governments to initiate the legislative and ratification processes necessary for the Treaty to enter into force.