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JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES AGREE ON MONITORING ARRANGEMENT FOR THE POPLAR RIVER

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced that Canada and the United States have agreed on a cooperative monitoring arrangement for the Poplar River. The Arrangement was developed in response to United States concerns about possible environmental effects in Montana from the Saskatchewan Power Corporation (SPC) power plant at Coronach, Saskatchewan.

The Arrangement was made public today by Saskatchewan Environment Minister Ted Bowerman and Montana Lieutenant Governor Ted Schwinden at a ceremony in Coronach.

The Canada/United States Arrangement was developed in close consultation with the governments of the Province of Saskatchewan and the State of Montana. It provides for the exchange of data collected from the monitoring programmes in both countries in the Poplar River area at or near the international boundary. It will also ensure that this information is made available in both countries, and that any definitive changes in water quality, water quantity and air quality are detected and reported.

Implementation of the Arrangement will be carried out by a newly-established Poplar River monitoring committee. Canadian officials named to the Committee are Denis Davis of Environment Canada, Regina, and Bill Howard of Environment Saskatchewan.

The Arrangement results from recent efforts by both countries to cooperate in assuring that there is no significant environmental impact on the United States from the SPC project as it goes into operation. The monitoring arrangement will enable both Governments to detect at an early stage any unforeseen effects should they occur. It will also help to ensure that the mitigation measures being required by the Saskatchewan and Canadian governments are providing adequate protection.