

GOVERNMENT



# PRESS RELEASE

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The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Governments of Canada and the United States have agreed on terms of reference to the International Joint Commission requesting it to investigate complaints of air pollution along the International Boundary in the vicinity of Detroit and Windsor. Text of the reference being submitted to the Canadian section of the Commission is attached.

The terms of reference request the Commission to investigate complaints that vessels passing through the Detroit River are causing the pollution of air in the vicinity of those two cities. The reference also requests the Commission to ascertain other major factors which might be contributing to this air pollution by the discharge of smoke, soot and fly ash in quantities sufficient to be detrimental to the public health, safety and general welfare of citizens.

The reference, which is made under the provisions of Article IX of the Boundary Waters Treaty signed January 11, 1909, asks the Commission to conduct inquiries and to report to the two Governments upon a number of questions, and also calls for recommendations as to remedial or preventive works which may be considered necessary to prevent pollution of the air in the vicinity of the International Boundary.

The following is the full text of the reference being submitted to the Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission by the Canadian Government:

I have the honour to inform you that representations have been made to the Governments of the United States and Canada to the effect that the air in the vicinity of the cities of Detroit and Windsor on both sides of the international boundary in the area of the Detroit River, is being polluted by the discharge of smoke, soot, and fly ash, in quantities sufficient to be detrimental to the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of both countries in this area. It has further been represented to the two Governments that vessels passing through the Detroit River are a source of this pollution. Pursuant to the provisions of Article IX of the Boundary Waters Treaty, signed January 11th, 1909, the two Governments have agreed to a joint reference of this matter to the International Joint Commission. The Commission is requested to enquire into, and to report to the two Governments upon, the following questions:

1. Is the air over, and in the vicinity of, the cities of Detroit and Windsor, on either side of the International boundary, being polluted by smoke, soot, fly ash or other impurities, in quantities detrimental to the public health, safety or general welfare of the citizens, or to property interests on either side of the international boundary line?
  2. If the foregoing question, or any part thereof, is answered in the affirmative, to what extent are vessels plying the waters of the Detroit River, or any of them, contributing to this pollution; what other major factors are responsible and to what extent?
  3. If the Commission should find that vessels plying the waters of the Detroit River, or any of them, are responsible for air pollution to an extent detrimental to the public health, safety or general welfare of the citizens, or to the property interests on either side of the international boundary line,
    - (a) what preventive or remedial measures would, in its judgment, be most practical from the economic, sanitary and other points of view?
    - (b) what would be the probable cost of such measures?
    - (c) by whom should such cost be borne?
2. For the purpose of assisting the Commission in making the investigations and recommendations provided for in this reference, the two Governments, upon request, will make available to the Commission the services of engineers and other specially qualified personnel of their respective Governments, and such information and technical data as may have been acquired by such Governments or as may be acquired by them during the course of the investigation.
3. The Commission should submit its report and recommendations to the two Governments as soon as practicable.