



No. 79

FOR RELEASE AT 2.30 p.m., 1965  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1965

APPROVAL BY CANADIAN AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS  
OF IJC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTROLLING  
POLLUTION IN RAINY RIVER

The Governments of Canada and the United States today announced their approval of the recommendations of the International Joint Commission for the control of pollution in the boundary waters of Rainy River. The recommendations were contained in a report dated February 24, 1965, submitted pursuant to a request of the two Governments dated May 30, 1959, for an investigation and report on pollution in Rainy River and Lake of the Woods. The Commission found Lake of the Woods to be in a satisfactory condition.

The Commission recommended the adoption of specified water quality objectives as the criteria to be met in satisfactorily maintaining the waters of Rainy River in accordance with the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, which provides that boundary waters and waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property on the other. The Commission further recommended that the appropriate authorities require the industries and municipalities concerned to initiate at the earliest possible date, and pursuant to a definite time schedule, construction of the pollution abatement facilities necessary to achieve and maintain the objectives. In approving the recommendations the two Governments authorized the Commission to establish continuing supervision over water quality in Rainy River.

In his letter of approval, the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs stated that the Commission's report was a significant contribution to knowledge in the field of water pollution control. The Commission was assured that action was being taken by the responsible authorities concerned to implement the recommendations.