



PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

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November 9, 1948.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Governments of the United States and Canada had agreed to refer certain matters in connection with the Passamaquoddy Tidal Power Project to the International Joint Commission, United States - Canada. (A copy — of the terms of reference is attached.)

The Passamaquoddy Tidal Power Project, as it was originally proposed in the 1920's, would involve damming Passamaquoddy Bay, on the Maine-New Brunswick border, and Cobscook Bay, which lies wholly within the State of Maine, and -- by means of a controlled flow between the two basins thus formed -- utilizing the great tidal range in the Bay of Fundy for the generation of hydro-electric power.

Under the terms of reference which have now been transmitted to the United States and Canadian sections of the International Joint Commission, by the U.S. State Department and the Canadian Department of External Affairs respectively, the Commission is asked to review existing plans for the project, to report how large and expensive an investigation would be required to determine whether any of these or other plans would be practicable, and to recommend a division of the expenses of such an investigation between the two countries. The reference does not ask the Commission to undertake the investigation, and both Governments have made it clear that they are not committed, by the present reference, to any later reference to the Commission for full investigation of the project itself.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANADA

Ottawa, November 9, 1948.

Dear Madam:

In accordance with Article IX of the Boundary Waters Treaty of January 11, 1909, the Governments of Canada and the United States have agreed to refer to the International Joint Commission the following matters for joint examination and advisory report, including recommendations and conclusions:

1. To review existing plans for the construction of hydro-electric power plants at Passamaquoddy and Cobscook Bays, arms of the Bay of Fundy, which are located at the mouth of the St. Croix River, a boundary stream between the State of Maine and the Province of New Brunswick.
2. To report on the scope of the investigation that would be necessary, together with the estimated cost thereof, to enable the Commission to report whether any of these or other plans for using these waters is practicable, and is desirable from the point of view of public convenience and necessity.
3. To report its recommendations as to the basis on which the costs of the investigation shall be apportioned to each country.

In the conduct of its examination, and otherwise in the performance of its duties under this Reference, the International Joint Commission may utilize such information and technical data as have been acquired by the technical agencies of either Government or which may become available during the course of the investigation, thus avoiding duplication of effort and unnecessary expense.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) "BROOKE CLAXTON"

Acting Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

Miss E. M. Sutherland,
Acting Secretary,
International Joint Commission,
603-605 Victoria Building,
Ottawa.