

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND CANADA



February 26, 2004

Mr. Robert M. Hirsch  
Accredited Officer of the United States for  
the St. Mary & Milk Rivers  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Mail Stop 409  
Reston, Virginia 20192

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- Docket: St. Mary and Milk Rivers
- Type: IJC Letter
- Subject: Letter to Robert Hirsch regarding apportionment of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers
- Action:
- Email: **IJC**
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Dear Mr. Hirsch:

As you are aware, the Commission has been considering the letters of the Governor of Montana requesting the Commission to review its 1921 Order with respect to apportionment of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers that was issued pursuant to the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. The Commission has also received correspondence regarding this matter from the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

This correspondence and other information raise several issues regarding water use and apportionment and planned water projects in the St. Mary and Milk River basins. In order to gather additional information regarding this situation and to help the Commission decide how best to proceed on all of the matters that have been raised in light of its responsibilities under the Treaty, the Commission has decided to hold a series of public consultations in the area during the coming summer.

While details of these consultations are not yet available, the Commission wants you to be aware of how it intends to proceed. Additional information on the timing, locations and format of these consultations will be provided in due course.

The Commission will also be keeping the Governor of Montana, the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and the governments of the United States and Canada informed regarding its plans for addressing issues related to the apportionment of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers.

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A similar letter is being sent to the Canadian Accredited Officer by the Secretary of the Canadian Section of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth C. Bourget  
Secretary  
U.S. Section

cc: William J. Carswell, Alternate Accredited Officer  
Robert E. Davis, Field Representative  
Murray Clamen, Secretary, Canadian Section, IJC