



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Reston, Virginia 20192

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INT'L JOINT COMMISSION  
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In Reply Refer To:  
Mail Stop 409

Elizabeth C. Bourget  
Secretary  
U. S. Section  
International Joint Commission  
United States and Canada  
1250 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20440

Dear Ms. Bourget:

In response to your request for our participation in the public consultations concerning the St. Mary and Milk River water use and apportionment, I am directing that our Field Representative, Mr. Robert Davis, Montana District Chief, USGS, participate in those consultations.

With regard to your request for information described in Section IV of the Commission's 1921 Order, the Montana District, under the direction of Mr. Davis, will attempt to develop estimates of the long-term, natural streamflow for four tributaries of the Milk River that arise in the United States but do not cross the international boundary. Specifically, those tributaries are Big Sandy Creek, Clear Creek, Peoples Creek, and Beaver Creek (near Saco). Given the short time and limited data available to develop the estimates, we plan to provide estimates of cumulative annual streamflow only for each of these four tributaries. When we have completed the estimates, we will consult with your office in order to provide you with some background about the methodology and some indication of the overall accuracy of the estimates. We cannot provide a firm date for completion of this effort, but we will try to furnish you with the estimates and background information before the end of July.

If you have questions about our participation in the upcoming consultations or about general methods for estimating streamflow, please feel free to call Mr. Robert Davis at 406-457-5901. We look forward to providing whatever assistance we can to the Commission's efforts.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Hirsch, Ph.D.  
Associate Director for Water and  
Accredited Officer for the United States,  
St. Mary and Milk Rivers

Copy to: Robert E. Davis, Montana District Chief  
William J. Carswell, Regional Hydrologist, CR