

As spokes person for the irrigation groups & individual in this area.

We would like to take this opportunity to voice over concerns about any major changes being made to the IJC order of 1921.

In Montana's letter of request they quote the first sentence in article V1 that the St. Mary and Milk Rivers and their tributaries are to be treated as one stream for the purposes of irrigation and power and the water therefore shall be apportioned equally between the two countries but in making such equal apportionment more than half may be taken from one river and less than half from the other^{either} country.

True this is how it is stated in the treaty but the state of Montana and provinces of Sask at Alberta have been treating the St. Marys and Eastern tributaries separately as they should be according to the 1921 order. Hydrologic data gathered on the Eastern Tributaries show the United States received at least their 50% every year. Over the long term the U. S. Has received 64% of the natural flow. Trading deficits incurred in these two separate systems has potential to vastly affect our water for usage in Canada. We feel that the two river system are listed

under the same act but the governing authorities realized the proper operational procedures with in the guidelines of the 1921 order.

Our position is that there be no apportionment change with in the Eastern Tributaries.

When we look at the Canadian & Sask. investment in irrigation infrastructure in this area and how the farm operations depend on water delivery for their livelyhood our water is all ready fully allocated. We can not survive a change that would decrease our water share.

This agreement has allowed for economic stability in the area.

We also feel that the current order and the procedures that have been implemented from it , have allowed flexibility for discussion between the governing authorities to work together and tweak the process where possible.

To open the order to change or to trade deficits between these two separate river systems we are not in favour of.

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