

**DIRECTIVE
TO THE
INTERNATIONALMISSISQUOI BAY TASK FORCE**

The purpose of this directive is to establish and direct the International Missisquoi Bay Task Force to examine and report to the International Joint Commission on questions posed by the governments of Canada and the United States in letters to the Commission dated May 7 and May 11, 2004, respectively (copies attached).

The Commission will appoint members of the Task Force and Co-Chairs to lead the Task Force's efforts. The Co-Chairs will be responsible for organizing and executing the work of the Task Force, and for coordinating with and reporting to the Commission. The Task Force will be binational and multi-disciplinary and comprise an equal number of members from each country. Members of the Task Force will act in their personal and professional capacities and not as representatives of their countries, agencies, organizations, or other affiliations. The Commission will provide guidance to the Task Force and will pursue resources available from the two Governments to support its efforts (including resource contributions by Task Force members' agencies). Members of the Task Force and work groups will be responsible for their own expenses unless otherwise arranged by the Commission.

In addressing issues raised by the Governments, the Task Force will coordinate its investigations with organizations in both countries to access the full breadth of available information. It will evaluate and analyze available information, and will inform the Commission of any additional information necessary to address pertinent issues.

The Task Force will strive to reach decisions by consensus and will notify the Commission of any irreconcilable differences. Any lack of clarity or precision in instructions or directives received from the Commission shall be referred promptly to the Commission.

The Commission stresses the importance of public outreach and consultation. It will be necessary to coordinate such matters with the Commission.

The Task Force will keep the Commission fully informed of its progress and direction through regular communications with the Commission Secretaries or their designees.

Because of the time-sensitive nature of the Governments' requests, the Commission authorizes the Task Force to begin its work immediately. The Task Force will submit a work plan with associated schedule of activities and budget for the Commission's approval as soon as practicable. The Task Force will submit its final report no later than early fall. The final report should contain the Task Force's findings and conclusions regarding the questions posed by governments based upon available information.

While the Commission intends for this to be an open study, the Task Force may meet privately in executive session when needed. Documents, letters, memoranda, and communications of every kind in the official records of the Commission are privileged and become available for public information only after release by the Commission. The Commission considers all documents in the official records of the Board or any of its committees to be similarly privileged. Accordingly, all such documents shall be so identified and maintained as separate files.

Signed: Monday, June 21, 2004



Elizabeth C. Bourget
Secretary
United States Section



Murray Clamen
Secretary
Canadian Section