

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Under date of March 9th, 1944, the Governments of the United States and the Dominion of Canada through their respective Secretaries of State communicated to the International Joint Commission for investigation and report, under the terms of Article IX of the Treaty of January 11, 1909, the following Reference:

March 9th, 1944.

Sirs:

"I have the honor to inform you that in order to determine whether a greater use than is now being made of the waters of the Columbia River system would be feasible and advantageous, the Governments of the United States and Canada have agreed to refer the matter to the International Joint Commission for investigation and report pursuant to Article IX of the Convention concerning Boundary Waters between the United States and Canada, signed January 11, 1909.

2. It is desired that the Commission shall determine whether in its judgment further development of the water resources of the river basin would be practicable and in the public interest from the points of view of the two Governments, having in mind (A) domestic water supply and sanitation, (B) navigation, (C) efficient development of water power, (D) the control of floods, (E) the needs of irrigation, (F) reclamation of wet lands, (G) conservation of fish and wildlife, and (H) other beneficial public purposes.

3. In the event that the Commission should find that further works or projects would be feasible and desirable for one or more of the purposes indicated above, it should indicate how the interests on either side of the boundary would be benefitted thereby, and should estimate the costs of such works or projects, including indemnification for damage to

public and private property and the costs of any remedial works that may be found to be necessary, and should indicate how the costs of any projects and the amounts of any resulting damage be apportioned between the two Governments.

4. The Commission should also investigate and report on existing dams, hydro-electric plants, navigation works and other works or projects located within the Columbia River system in so far as such investigation and report be germane to the subject under consideration.

5. In the conduct of its investigation and otherwise in the performance of its duties under this reference, the Commission may utilize the services of engineers and other specially qualified personnel of the technical agencies of Canada and the United States and will so far as possible make use of information and technical data heretofore acquired by such technical agencies or which may become available during the course of the investigation, thus avoiding duplication of effort and unnecessary expense."

(Signed) Cordell Hull,  
Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

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(Signed) W. L. Mackenzie King,  
Secretary of State for  
External Affairs,  
Ottawa, Canada.

TO INTERESTED PERSONS:

The above copy of reference is being sent to you for your information. Dates of Public Hearings will be arranged by the International Joint Commission later and opportunity will be given to interested persons and organizations to present testimony.

Jesse B. Ellis,  
Washington, D. C.

Lawrence J. Burpee,  
Ottawa, Canada.  
Secretaries,  
International Joint Commission.