



International Joint Commission

October 15, 1999

Honorable Madeline Albright
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Albright:

The International Joint Commission (Commission) informed you in an April 15, 1999, letter (copy attached) that it was becoming increasingly urgent to review the regulation of Lake Ontario in view of dissatisfaction, on the part of some interests, with the working of that system and in the light of environmental concerns and climate change issues. As a first step, we promised to constitute a binational work group to develop a Plan of Study describing the work required to review this water levels and flow regulation.

Enclosed please find the Plan of Study. The work described within it is extensive and encompasses detailed technical studies, impact assessment, and development of alternatives. Ongoing public consultation is an important component. The entire effort is projected to cost \$10.1 million U.S. plus \$15.8 million Canadian over the five-year phasing of work.

We appreciate the expertise and contributions of personnel from agencies and organizations in both countries in developing this Plan of Study, and believe that this document provides a reasoned and appropriate approach for reviewing water levels and flow regulation in the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River system. The cost and effort are significant. However, it has been nearly fifty years since a comprehensive assessment of water regulation has been performed for the system that considers knowledge gained, changed uses of the system, and likely future trends. The increased understanding of the environment since the 1950's and the growing knowledge of the likely effects of climate change and variability are but two examples.

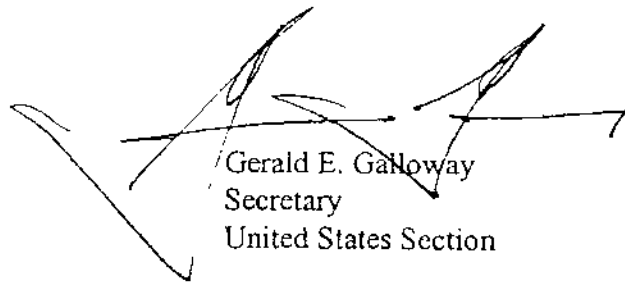
The Commission would be remiss in not pointing out that, despite the considerable costs, we cannot guarantee that the study will lead to resolution of all issues by producing significant additional benefits for every interest group beyond those already enjoyed. Nevertheless, the Commission believes that, for the reasons stated above, this study should be undertaken and requests your assistance in securing the needed resources. We look forward to meeting with you in the near future to discuss this matter further.

Washington • Ottawa • Windsor

1250 23rd Street NW, Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20440 (202) 736-9000 Fax (202) 736-9015

A similar letter is being sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade by the Secretary of the Canadian Section of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. E. Galloway', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Gerald E. Galloway
Secretary
United States Section

Enclosures