County of Forty Mile No. 8

Dale E. Brown
County Administrator

Sharon Burgess
Director of Finance

July 28, 2004.

IJC / CMI OTTAWA
ACTION: McAuley
INFO: Chair Gray/NH/MV Clamen/MT/Koop
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FILE / DOSSIER
3-1-4-9 (9)

Secretary,
International Joint Commission
Canadian Section,
2nd Floor, 234 Laurier Avenue West,
OTTAWA, ON K1P 6K6

ATTENTION: Michelle Tracy

Dear Ms. Tracy:

RE: Public Consultation – Boundary Waters Treaty and 1921 Order

The County of Forty Mile No. 8 is located in south east Alberta through which a portion of the Milk River flows. This system provides a range of benefits to water users in the area and, therefore, we believe that careful consideration needs to be given prior to any action being taken that may affect the secure, stable water source that exists for both rural and urban use.

Montana's request to review the 1921 Order has raised some real concerns in our area. A review of the Order could result in major implications on the security of water supplies: any change to this Order could also result in serious consequences for Alberta's economy and for the residents of southern Alberta. It is our understanding that the Province has made significant investments in water infrastructure to assist in the development of various industries that employ approximately 4,000 people and is based on existing implementation of the 1921 Order. It is estimated that without the irrigation development, the region's population would be reduced by approximately 65%. The system also supports the water needs of the residents from 50 municipalities.

In reviewing various documents that relate to this issue, it is apparent that Canada and the United States have been able to successfully share waters of the Milk and St. Mary Rivers. It appears that past issues have been dealt with fairly and equitably through existing processes in place under the 1921 Order. The Order appears to be flexible enough to allow various issues of concern to be addressed through a positive working relationship between the two countries.

P. O. Box 160, Foremost, AB T0K 0X0 - Telephone 403 867-3530, Fax 403 867-2242

One would believe that there is no reason why this could not continue on in the future.

Our Council believes it is essential to have a system in place that allows for long term planning and development. The 1921 Order provides stability and allows for future growth through a co-operative use of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers.

The County of Forty Mile No. 8 Council would, therefore, like to go on record in support of the existing Order and that a review is not required.

Yours truly,

LEONARD MITZEL,
REEVE.

DB:dc

3-1-4-9 (9)

BOX 160, FOREMOST, AB TOK OXO
TELEPHONE NO. 403-867-3530
FAX NO. 403-867-2242

COUNTY OF FORTY MILE NO. 8

Fax

To:	**Michelle Tracy**	**From:**	**Diane Coenders**
Fax:	**613-993-5583**	**Pages:**	**3**
Phone:		**Date:**	**July 28, 2004**
Re:	**Boundary Waters Treaty & 1921 Order**	**CC:**	

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