



OKANAGAN NATION ALLIANCE

3255 C Shannon Lake Road, Westbank, BC V4T 1V4
Phone (250) 707-0095 Fax (250) 707-0166 www.syilx.org

IJC/CMI Ottawa

ACTION Vechsler

INFO: M.Clamen/PFK
McAuley/Bourget

August 12, 2005

Via Fax (1-613-993-5583)

Secretary, Canadian Section
International Joint Commission
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6K6

AUG 19 2005

FILE/DOSSIER

3-1-4-9 (44)

Dear Sir or Madam:

**Re: Request from the Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission
Concerning Grand Coulee Dam**

We write in response to the invitation for comments from interested parties with respect to the request from the Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fishery Commission ("CCRITFC") concerning damage to the interests of aboriginal peoples of Canada as a result of the construction and operation of the Grand Coulee Dam and Reservoir.

The Okanagan Nation Alliance ("ONA") represents the following communities of the Okanagan Nation in British Columbia: Okanagan Indian Band, Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Upper Similkameen Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band, Upper Nicola Indian Band, and Westbank First Nation.

The mandate of the ONA includes protection of the aboriginal rights and title of its members in accordance with the laws, customs and traditions of the Okanagan Nation.

Prior to the assertion of British and American sovereignty, and the establishment of the Canada-United States border, members of the Okanagan Nation fished large runs of salmon at Okanagan Falls, Kettle Falls, Arrow Lakes, and other places throughout the Columbia River watershed. Following the establishment of the international border, and prior to construction of the Grand Coulee Dam, members of the Okanagan Nation living in Canada continued to fish salmon at Okanagan Falls, Arrow Lakes and other places. Those fisheries were destroyed by the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam and the Grand Coulee Fish Management Project.

The ONA supports the request by CCRITFC that the International Joint Commission ("IJC") issue such further orders as may be necessary to require the Government of the United States to make suitable and adequate provision for protection and indemnification of the interests of



aboriginal peoples of Canada whose fisheries have been damaged by the construction and operation of the Grand Coulee Dam and Reservoir.

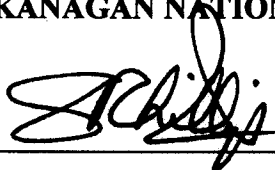
The ONA further supports CCRITFC's submission that the IJC has jurisdiction in this matter, and should take jurisdiction in this matter.

However, the ONA asks that IJC recognize that CCRITFC does not represent all First Nations in Canada with an interest in a remedy against the operator of the Grand Coulee Dam. Specifically, CCRITFC does not represent the Okanagan Nation. Should the IJC assume jurisdiction in this matter, the ONA would like to meet with the IJC to discuss the specific interests of its members.

We ask that you keep us informed of this matter, and provide us with copies of any correspondence, decisions or orders as the matter progresses.

Yours truly,

OKANAGAN NATION ALLIANCE



Chief Stewart Phillip, **Chairman**

cc: **ONA Chiefs and Council Members**
Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission



3255-C Shannon Lake
Road
Westbank, BC V4T 1V4

Tel: (250) 707-0095
Fax: (250) 707-0166



Fax

To: Secretary, Canadian Section, International Joint Commission From: Okanagan Nation Alliance

Fax: (613) 993-5583

Pages: 1 of 3

Phone:

Date: August 12, 2005

Re: Attached letter

CC:

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

Please refer to the attached letter.

LIC / CMI OTTAWA
ACTION: <i>mv</i>
INFO: <i>me/PRK, J. McH, L. Bowyer</i>
AUG 15 2005
FILE / DOSSIER



OKANAGAN NATION ALLIANCE

3255 C. Shannon Lake Road, Westbank, BC V4T 1V4
Phone (250) 707-0095 Fax (250) 707-0166 www.syilx.org

IJC/CMI Ottawa

ACTION: Vechsler

INFO: M.Clamen/PFK
McAuley
Bourget

AUG 15 2005

FILE/DOSSIER

3-1-4-9 (44)

August 12, 2005

Via Fax (1-613-993-5583)

Secretary, Canadian Section
International Joint Commission
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6K6

Dear Sir or Madam:

**Re: Request from the Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission
Concerning Grand Coulee Dam**

We write in response to the invitation for comments from interested parties with respect to the request from the Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fishery Commission ("CCRITFC") concerning damage to the interests of aboriginal peoples of Canada as a result of the construction and operation of the Grand Coulee Dam and Reservoir.

The Okanagan Nation Alliance ("ONA") represents the following communities of the Okanagan Nation in British Columbia: Okanagan Indian Band, Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Upper Similkameen Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band, Upper Nicola Indian Band, and Westbank First Nation.

The mandate of the ONA includes protection of the aboriginal rights and title of its members in accordance with the laws, customs and traditions of the Okanagan Nation.

Prior to the assertion of British and American sovereignty, and the establishment of the Canada-United States border, members of the Okanagan Nation fished large runs of salmon at Okanagan Falls, Kettle Falls, Arrow Lakes, and other places throughout the Columbia River watershed. Following the establishment of the international border, and prior to construction of the Grand Coulee Dam, members of the Okanagan Nation living in Canada continued to fish salmon at Okanagan Falls, Arrow Lakes and other places. Those fisheries were destroyed by the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam and the Grand Coulee Fish Management Project.

The ONA supports the request by CCRITFC that the International Joint Commission ("IJC") issue such further orders as may be necessary to require the Government of the United States to make suitable and adequate provision for protection and indemnification of the interests of



aboriginal peoples of Canada whose fisheries have been damaged by the construction and operation of the Grand Coulee Dam and Reservoir.

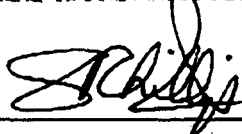
The ONA further supports CCRITFC's submission that the IJC has jurisdiction in this matter, and should take jurisdiction in this matter.

However, the ONA asks that IJC recognize that CCRITFC does not represent all First Nations in Canada with an interest in a remedy against the operator of the Grand Coulee Dam. Specifically, CCRITFC does not represent the Okanagan Nation. Should the IJC assume jurisdiction in this matter, the ONA would like to meet with the IJC to discuss the specific interests of its members.

We ask that you keep us informed of this matter, and provide us with copies of any correspondence, decisions or orders as the matter progresses.

Yours truly,

OKANAGAN NATION ALLIANCE



Chief Stewart Phillip, Chairman

cc: ONA Chiefs and Council Members
Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission