



Annual reporting periods on the Eastern Tributaries need to be studied further before changes are made to existing procedures. Efforts of this report focused on issues raised by Montana, which were on the St. Mary and Milk Rivers. Therefore, little research and virtually no modeling was completed relative to the effects on the Eastern Tributaries. The present system used on the Eastern Tributaries is not perfect. There is room for improvement. However, according to the report, both Montana and Saskatchewan are relatively content with the existing procedures. Although I would encourage future studies on the effects of different reporting periods on the Eastern Tributaries, I think that to embark on a course of changing the existing 15 day balancing period to an annual reporting period without first doing the homework would be an ill advised move. Model results on the Eastern Tributaries should also be reviewed by the Eastern Tributaries Technical Working Group(ETTWG) before final decisions are made. In the meantime, until the research and modeling can be completed on the Eastern Tributaries, and reviewed by the ETTWG, no changes should be made to the 15 day balancing period.

In closing, once The Administrative Measures Task Force work is completed, I hope that a complete review of the IJC 1921 Order will be authorized. In the meantime, I support changing to an annual reporting period for dividing the waters of the Milk and St. Mary Rivers. I further recommend additional research into the effects of converting to an annual reporting period on the Eastern Tributaries, but no change to the Eastern Tributaries administrative procedures until that research is completed and the effects are fully understood.