



contrary to the position of the  
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International Joint Board and the Treaty, and should not even be allowed to be considered. Alberta further has made the argument that we have stole that water fare and square, and now have made a major investment for the use of it, therefore they ought to be allowed to keep it.

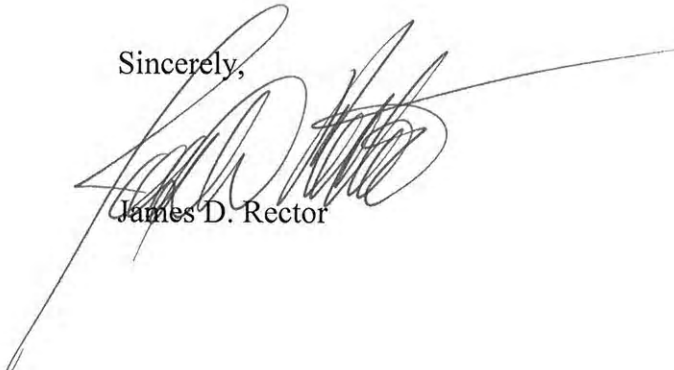
I live in Valley County, and we are the downstream users. The flow of water in the Milk River is extremely critical to the economic viability of our entire community. When the amount of irrigation water is less than the Treaty allows, six out of ten years, it creates a negative economic impact on our community. The least that could be done would be to increase the balancing period to the annual balancing period, thereby allowing the Montana users a larger portion of their entitlement. The part that makes this most egregious is the fact that the infrastructure development at the St. Mary's diversion was constructed by the U. S., and the U. S. is presently planning on re-constructing the same entirely with U. S. fund; however, Alberta will receive the majority of the benefit.

In regard to the issue with the Blackfeet, I am sensitive to the Blackfeet's problem; I understand why they feel the way they do; however, this is not the right forum for the Blackfeet. The Blackfeet were not part of the International Treaty; and therefore, the International Joint Commission and the Administrative Measures Task Force can't very well consider the Blackfeet position. It is my contention that the Task Force is without jurisdiction to discuss any of the Blackfeet issues.

From my perspective it is purely and simply a matter of fairness. The 1921 order should be revisited and reopened to allow the U. S. to receive the full fifty percent of its share of the flows, and at the very least the accounting period should be changed to an annual period to allow the U. S. to receive closer to their forty-five percent, allocated under the administrative rules.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Sincerely,



James D. Rector

JDR/nk