



**Saskatchewan
Watershed
Authority**

Head Office

REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

ENVIRONMENT CANADA

Saskatchewan

Victoria Place
111 Fairford Street East
Moose Jaw, Canada
S6H 7X9

(306) 694-3900
(306) 694-3944 Fax

www.swa.ca

(306) 694-3990

June 27, 2006

Mr. Ross Herrington, P.Eng.

Our File: B8-16

Co-Chair International St. Mary and Milk River
Administrative Measures Task Force
c/o Environmental Conservation Branch
Environment Canada
Room 330, 2365 Albert Street
REGINA SK S4P 4K1

Dear Mr. Herrington:

**Re: International St. Mary and Milk Rivers
Administrative Measures Task Force Report - 2006**

Provided with this letter is a document outlining Saskatchewan's perspective on the Task Force report released April 18, 2006.

As the water resource manager for the Province of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is pleased to provide this response in follow-up to the Authority's presentation during the public meeting the Task Force held in Havre, Montana on May 23, 2006.

I understand that the Task Force's next step will be to review all the responses that are received in reaction to the draft report and finalize its recommendations to the International Joint Commission (IJC). We look forward to the conclusion of this work and the direction that may be provided by the IJC.

Should you have any questions regarding the response, please contact Mr. Rob Wiebe, P.Eng., Acting-Director, Regional Operations at (306) 694-3973.

Sincerely,

W. G. (Bill) Duncan, P.Eng.
Acting-Vice President
Operations Division
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

WGD/ca
Attachment

Saskatchewan's Response

to the

International St. Mary – Milk Rivers

Administrative Task Force

Report

of

April 2006

Prepared by:

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

June 2006

Saskatchewan's Response to the International St. Mary and Milk Rivers Administrative Task Force Report, 2006

1.0 Background

1.1 The Issue

In 2003, the Governor of Montana requested the International Joint Commission (IJC) to reconsider the conditions of the 1921 Order and evaluate whether the United States should be entitled to a larger share of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers. To evaluate the merits of Montana's request, the IJC held a series of meetings in July of 2004 to solicit public views. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, as the Province of Saskatchewan's water manager, made presentations on Saskatchewan's position at the meetings as well as in a written format.

It is understood that Montana's written concerns are specific to the shared rivers between Alberta and Montana and not those between Saskatchewan and Montana. Regardless, it is noteworthy to identify that Saskatchewan's geographic area of interest lies within the area known as the Eastern Tributaries which contribute more than 40% of the USA entitlement on the Milk River.

In December 2004, the IJC established the Administrative Measures Task Force to examine whether the existing administrative procedures can be improved to ensure more beneficial use and optimal receipt by each country of its apportioned waters. The Task Force completed its report in April of 2006. Public meetings were held in Havre, Montana, and Lethbridge, Alberta in May 2006 to hear response to the report. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, on behalf of the Province of Saskatchewan, presented its response to the Task Force report. The remainder of this document outlines the response.

1.2 Saskatchewan' Position

The 2004 presentation by Saskatchewan identified that:

- The Eastern Tributaries may figure into any re-apportionment to obtain equity between Canada and the USA with any changes having potential for significant impacts to Canadian, and specifically Saskatchewan users.
- Inter-provincial apportionment agreements, relating to the South Saskatchewan River, are closely integrated with the requirements of the 1921 Order and those agreements rely on the stability of the Order.
- The concerns raised by Montana do not meet the threshold Saskatchewan believes are necessary to open the 1921 Order.

