



Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

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December 21, 2004

The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray, P.C., C.C., Q.C.
Chair, Canadian Section
International Joint Commission
234 Laurier Avenue W, 22nd Floor
OTTAWA ON K1P 6K6

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Dear Mr. Gray:

Thank for your letter advising of the International Joint Commission's (IJC) decision to establish a St. Mary and Milk Rivers Administrative Measures Task Force. In keeping with everyone's interest in managing water the best we can, we believe this is an appropriate response to the request from Montana to review the Order.

In the paper that we provided to you in September, we indicated that Saskatchewan believed before any consideration was given to opening up the Order, every attempt should be made to improve how the water is managed under the framework of the existing Order. This is consistent with the approach you are taking in undertaking a review of the Administrative Measures, and we are very supportive of this approach.

I note that the IJC has proposed the Task Force complete its report by June 2005 and I commend the IJC for continuing to act on this matter in a timely fashion. Saskatchewan, through the Watershed Authority, would be pleased to assist the IJC in the work of the Task Force to help ensure its completion as soon as possible.

We look forward to the Task Force being able to identify some opportunities to change the Administrative Measures to the benefit of all the affected jurisdictions and hopefully with that, the issue of the review of the 1921 Order can be put to rest.

Sincerely,

David Forbes
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

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Action

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