

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND CANADA



May 28, 2004

Dr. Robert Hirsch
Accredited Officer for the United States
St. Mary and Milk Rivers

Dear Dr. Hirsch:

As you know, the International Joint Commission has received correspondence and other information regarding water use and apportionment and planned water projects in the St. Mary and Milk River basins. In order to gather additional information regarding this situation and to help the Commission decide how best to proceed on all of the matters that have been raised in light of its responsibilities under the Treaty, the Commission has decided to hold a series of public consultations in the area during the coming summer. Although the details have not been finalized, we are looking to the last week of July for these consultations.

The Commission would greatly appreciate your participation and/or the participation of your field representative at those public consultations. The purpose of your participation would be to explain to the public how the Accredited Officers carry out the responsibilities that have been assigned to them by the Commission in the 1921 Order. The field representatives have provided the Commission detailed briefings on these matters in the past, which were extremely helpful.

The Commission would also appreciate your assistance on a provision of the Commission's 1921 Order that was not assigned to the Accredited Officers. Section IV of the Order provides that "each country shall be apportioned such waters of the said rivers and of any tributaries thereof as rise in that country but do not naturally flow across the international boundary." The 1921 Order, however, made no provision for reporting to the Commission on the volume of such waters. In order to become more familiar with the many issues that have been raised regarding the Commission's 1921 Order, the Commission would appreciate the Accredited Officers' best estimate of the amount of water that is addressed by Section IV in the St. Mary and Milk Rivers Basins, both individually and collectively. The Commission would be grateful for your early advice prior to the upcoming public consultations.

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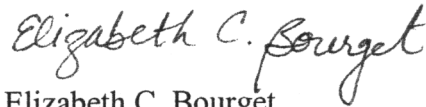
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If you or your field representative have any questions regarding these requests, please feel free to contact me at (202) 736-9008 or Jim Chandler at (202) 736-9016.

A similar letter is being sent to the Accredited Officer for Canada by the Secretary of the Canadian Section of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth C. Bourget
Secretary
U.S. Section

Cc: Mr. Murray Clamen, Secretary, Canadian Section, International Joint Commission
Mr. William J. Carswell, Jr., Alternate Accredited Officer for the United States
Mr. Robert Davis, Field Representative for the United States