



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 21, 1977

Mr. William Bullard
Secretary, U.S. Section
International Joint Commission
1717 H Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20440

Dear Mr. Bullard:

By joint Reference of even date, the Governments of Canada and the United States have charged the Commission with an examination of the effects of the various existing and proposed diversions of water within, into and out of the Great Lakes which have, or may have, a material effect on management of Basin water levels and flows.

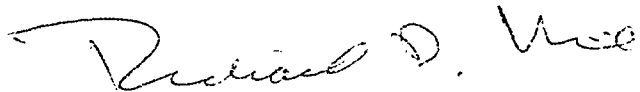
I wish to inform the Commission that the United States program authorized by Section 166 of P.L. 94-587, the Water Resources Development Act of 1976, is related to this Reference activity. Section 166 of the Act contains an authorization for a five-year study and demonstration program affecting the abstraction of the waters of Lake Michigan at Chicago, contemplating increases from the present rate of diversion up to a maximum of 10,000 c.f.s. under certain conditions. The development of an operating plan, preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment and a full EIS if required, and continuing consultations with the Government of Canada in light of these studies, and hopefully those of the Commission, would precede implementation of this authority. Initially this program is to be accomplished by means of existing funding; however, additional appropriations may be sought at a later date.

Related to ongoing Commission efforts to refine the Lake Ontario plan of regulation, Section 180 of the same Act authorizes the appropriation of \$2 million for studies of measures including improved regulation of levels of Lake Ontario to enhance protection of riparian property and promote environmental objectives. Additional legislation is required to appropriate funds for this latter program, a matter we expect the new Congress to address in the near future.

The Department will keep the Commission apprised of all developments regarding these projects. The Corps of Engineers of the United States Army, as the designated lead U.S. Federal agency, has indicated its intention to coordinate investigations pursuant to these programs with related activities of the International Joint Commission to the maximum possible extent, and to cooperate closely with the Commission, through the Department, in this regard.

A copy of this letter is being provided to the Canada Department of External Affairs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard D. Vine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a distinct "V".

Richard D. Vine
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Canadian Affairs

Attachments:

P.L. 94-587