

## In Closing

Interestingly, Premier Doer advises that if the Devils Lake outlet is referred to the International Joint Commission (IJC), he will fully comply with its recommendations.

Recommendations WRT the November 2000, IJC report still remain to be implemented for many by the Province of Manitoba and Canada. The IJC noted in their very august report on Red River flooding:

*“It is noteworthy that the Boundary Waters Treaty would provide for adequate protection and indemnity to persons in the United States who might be injured by an increase in water levels caused by a structure such as that proposed at Ste. Agathe. It is hard to imagine that Canadians should receive less consideration”.*

*The Commission recommends that:*

***IJC Recommendation 3: The city, province and the Canadian federal government should cooperatively develop and finance a long-term flood protection plan for the city that fully considers all social, environmental and human effects of any proposed flood protection measures and respects both the needs of Winnipeg and the interests of those outside the city who might be affected by such a plan.***

Regards

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Tuesday, June 14th, 2005

## N.D. officials say Canada misleading White House

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By Mia Rabson

NORTH Dakota's most senior politicians have accused Canada of purposely misleading the White House about the impact of the Devils Lake outlet.

In a letter to President George W. Bush, sent Friday, Sen. Byron Dorgan, Sen. Kent Conrad, Rep. Earl Pomeroy and North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven told Bush they were writing because he had just had a conversation about the outlet with Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin and they wanted to set the record straight.

"Unfortunately, the Canadian government has waged an aggressive misinformation campaign that overlooks the importance of this project to our state's citizens and distorts the effect on downstream communities," they wrote.

Martin spoke to Bush about the outlet in a telephone conversation last week. It was the fourth time Martin has raised the issue with the U.S. president in the last 14 months.

Devils Lake, which has no natural outlet, has been rising steadily for more than a decade, causing more than \$500 million in damage and repair bills to the state and the U.S. federal government. The outlet will take water from the lake and funnel it down a long canal into the Sheyenne River, which flows into the Red River and hence to Lake Winnipeg.

Manitoba argues this violates the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty because it is unilateral action by one country that could harm the other country's waters. Manitoba is concerned about the impact on its waters of the higher salt levels in Devils Lake, as well as increased levels of pollution, and possibly foreign plants, fish and parasites.

Manitoba wants the project reviewed by the International Joint Commission, a U.S.-Canada body that sorts out boundary water disputes. Manitoba says it will live with whatever the IJC finds, but the North Dakota politicians told Bush they made sure downstream waters were not jeopardized, and a reference to the IJC now will just delay the project.

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