

The Future of the Columbia River Treaty

WHAT'S BEING LOOKED AT?

Canada and the United States are exploring two basic scenarios: to either terminate or continue the Columbia River Treaty (CRT). Under the scenario to continue the CRT, the Assured Annual Flood Control provision will expire in 2024. As part of their work to understand the implications of each scenario, both countries are examining what changes may occur compared to the CRT as it currently operates.

1a) Columbia River Treaty Continues:

Potential for Coordinated Flood Risk Management.

Canada continues to receive payments for downstream power benefits. Flood control could be Coordinated Risk Management or Called Upon Flood Control as prescribed in current CRT.

1b) Columbia River Treaty Continues:

Potential Coordination for Additional Values.

Potential to incorporate other values including ecosystems, recreation etc.

2) CRT is Terminated:

The current CRT is terminated with no replacement agreement.

Downstream power benefits payments to BC (\$150- \$300 million US / year) expire. Canada's requirement to regulate flows for power interests in the U.S. ends. Canadian flood control obligations change to Called Upon Flood Control. There is increased uncertainty in the U.S. regarding Canadian operations. No coordination between Canada and the U.S.

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