

**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO**

Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua  
November 5, 2009

**MINUTE NO. 315**

**ADOPTION OF THE DELINEATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY  
ON THE 2008 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC MOSAIC OF THE RIO GRANDE**

The Commission met in the offices of the Mexican Section in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua at 10:00 a.m. on November 5, 2009, to confirm the review undertaken by former U.S. Commissioner Carlos Marin and former Mexican Commissioner J. Arturo Herrera Solis of the delineation of the international boundary between the two countries on the 112 photomaps that make up the 2008 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande, which covers the limitrophe section of the Rio Grande.

The Commission referred to the "Treaty to Resolve Pending Boundary Differences and Maintain the Rio Grande and Colorado River as the International Boundary" between the United States and Mexico, signed November 23, 1970, hereinafter referred to as the 1970 Boundary Treaty, and noted that Article II, paragraph C, provides that: "The Commission, on the basis of the surveys which it shall carry out as soon as practical, shall with appropriate precision delineate the international boundary on maps or aerial photographic mosaics of the Rio Grande and of the Colorado River. In the future, the Commission shall make surveys as frequently as it may consider justifiable, but in any event at intervals not greater than ten years, and shall record the position of the international boundary on appropriate maps. Each of the Governments shall bear half of the costs and other expenses determined by the Commission and approved by the two Governments for the surveys and maps relating to the boundaries."

The Commission made note of Minute No. 278, entitled "Delineation of the International Boundary on Aerial Photographic Mosaics of the Rio Grande," signed March 31, 1989, to reflect the changes in the international boundary line in the limitrophe section of the Rio Grande.

The Commission reviewed the "Joint Report of the Principal Engineers to Delineate the International Boundary on the 2008 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande," dated September 30, 2009, signed by Principal Engineer Alfredo J. Riera of the United States Section and Principal Engineer Luis Antonio Rascón Mendoza of the Mexican Section, which is attached to and forms a part of this Minute. The Commissioners confirmed that in 2004 the United States Section of the Commission undertook the aerial photographic surveys of the Rio Grande upon which the 2008 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande is based, and developed the working photographic enlargements to delineate the international boundary line. The Commission received technical expertise from the United States Geological Survey, which created a template to be used for the preparation of the 2008 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande that was modified to meet the

**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION**  
**UNITED STATES AND MEXICO**

2

standards established by the Commission. They further confirmed that the final version of the 2008 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande was prepared by Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography using a Transverse Mercator Projection on a scale of 1:25,000, and that the 2008 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande was prepared in accordance with guidelines established by the Commission. The Commission considered that this division of work satisfactorily fulfills the provision in the 1970 Boundary Treaty that each Government shall bear half of the costs and other expenses for the surveys and photomaps relating to the boundaries.

On the photomaps of the 2008 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande showing the international reservoirs formed by Falcon and Amistad International Dams, the Commission delineated the jurisdictional line in accordance with Minute No. 199, entitled "Establishment of Jurisdictional Line in Falcon Reservoir," dated December 15, 1953, and in accordance with Minute No. 232, entitled "Demarcation of a Jurisdictional Line in Amistad Reservoir," dated May 9, 1968, consistent with the provisions of Article 21 of the "United States - Mexico Treaty for the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande," signed February 3, 1944.

The Commissioners suggested that the reaches in the 1989 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande that were pending approval of the Commission be accepted as the International Boundary Line at the location identified in the 2004 ortho-rectified imagery used to prepare the 2008 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande in accordance with Article II of the 1970 Boundary Treaty. Given that neither country exercised its right to restore the Rio Grande to its prior position, sovereignty over 63.53 acres (25.71 hectares) should be transferred from Mexico to the United States and sovereignty over 107.81 acres (43.63 hectares) should be transferred from the United States to Mexico, as indicated in the Joint Report of the Principal Engineers. Consequently, the United States should receive a credit of 44.28 acres (17.92 hectares) to be compensated in future adjustments of the international boundary line.

The Commission noted that former U.S. Commissioner Carlos Marin and former Mexican Commissioner J. Arturo Herrera Solis had verified that the international boundary line on the 112 photomaps from the 2008 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande was delineated with appropriate precision and in accordance with Article II, paragraph C of the 1970 Boundary Treaty, and that they had signed a set of original maps and a set of reproducible maps for each of the two Sections of the Commission.

Based on the above considerations, the Commissioners submit the following resolutions for the approval of the two Governments:

1. The "Joint Report of the Principal Engineers to Delineate the International Boundary on the 2008 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande," dated September 30, 2009, attached hereto, shall be approved and form an integral part of this Minute.

**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION**  
**UNITED STATES AND MEXICO**

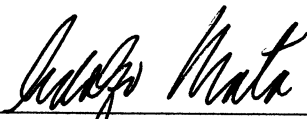
3

2. The 112 photomaps that comprise the aerial photographic mosaic of the Rio Grande, designated as the 2008 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande, form an integral part of this Minute, delineate the international boundary in the Rio Grande with appropriate precision in accordance with Article II, paragraph C of the 1970 Boundary Treaty, and shall therefore be adopted.
3. The location of the international boundary line in the reaches that were pending approval of the Commission in the 1989 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande in accordance with Minute No. 278 shall be accepted and the current location of the river will become the international boundary line at the location as shown in the 2008 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande, in accordance with Article III of the 1970 Boundary Treaty.
4. With respect to changes in the limitrophe reaches of the Rio Grande reflected in the 1989 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande, neither country exercised its right to restore the Rio Grande to its prior position, and sovereignty over tracts of land transferred from one side of the river to the other shall transfer as indicated in Appendix I of the attached Joint Report.
5. The United States shall receive a credit of 44.28 acres (17.92 hectares) to be compensated in future adjustments of the international boundary line, in accordance with Article III of the 1970 Boundary Treaty.
6. The 138 changes in the international boundary line of the Rio Grande that are pending resolution by the Commission have been marked in the 2008 Aerial Photographic Mosaic of the Rio Grande and shall be subsequently addressed by the Commission in accordance with the 1970 Boundary Treaty.
7. This Minute shall enter into force upon notification of approval by the Government of the United States and the Government of the United Mexican States through the respective Sections of the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned.



\_\_\_\_\_  
C. W. Ruth  
United States Commissioner



\_\_\_\_\_  
Adolfo Mata  
United States Section Secretary



\_\_\_\_\_  
Roberto F. Salmón Castelo  
Mexican Commissioner



\_\_\_\_\_  
José de Jesús Luevano Grano  
Mexican Section Secretary