

(English text of Minute No. 199 dated December 15, 1953)

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

El Paso, Texas,  
December 15, 1953.

Minute No. 199

ESTABLISHMENT OF JURISDICTIONAL LINE IN FALCON RESERVOIR

The Commission met at the offices of the United States Section in El Paso, Texas, on December 15, 1953, at 10:00 a.m., for further consideration of the matter of the jurisdictional line to be established in Falcón Reservoir, pursuant to Article 21 of the Water Treaty, as follows:

"The construction of the international dams and the formation of artificial lakes shall produce no change in the fluvial international boundary, which shall continue to be governed by existing treaties and conventions in force between the two countries.

"The Commission shall, with the approval of the two Governments, establish in the artificial lakes, by buoys or by other suitable markers, a practicable and convenient line to provide for the exercise of the jurisdiction and control vested by this Treaty in the Commission and its respective Sections. Such line shall also mark the boundary for the application of the customs and police regulations of each country."

The Commission reviewed the action heretofore taken, as follows: Following careful consideration of the matter by the two Sections of the Commission and surveys of the boundary in the channel of the river, agreements were reached, subject to the approval of the two Governments, as to the principles governing the location of the jurisdictional line in Falcón Reservoir, and as to the methods of establishing that line. These preliminary agreements, informally approved by the Department of State of the United States and the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Mexico, were incorporated in a "Memorandum of the Principal Engineers Regarding Monumentation of a Jurisdictional Line Within Falcón Reservoir."

Copies

Copies of the English and Spanish texts of this Memorandum are attached as Exhibits A and B, respectively, and form part of this Minute.

By exchange of letters dated August 3 and 6, 1953, the Commission adopted the Memorandum of the Principal Engineers, subject to the approval of the two Governments, and agreed to proceed promptly and before the beginning of storage in Falcón Reservoir, with the construction of concrete monuments to mark the major portion of the jurisdictional line. These monuments have been completed, except for the placing of metal platforms and marine lanterns.

After review of the foregoing developments, the Commission agreed that, now that there is a considerable quantity of water stored in Falcón Reservoir creating a lake averaging 1.25 miles (2.0 kilometers) wide, action should be taken for the definitive establishment and recognition by the two Governments of the jurisdictional line as provided by the Water Treaty. The Commission, therefore, adopted the following resolution:

"The Commission respectfully recommends that establishment of the line as recommended in the 'Memorandum of the Principal Engineers Regarding Monumentation of a Jurisdictional Line Within Falcón Reservoir,' dated July 15, 1953, be approved by the two Governments, for the exercise of the jurisdiction and control vested by the Water Treaty in the Commission and its respective Sections, and to mark the boundary for the application of the customs and police regulations of each country, pursuant to Article 21 of that Treaty."

The meeting then adjourned.

(sgd) L. M. Lawson  

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Commissioner of the United States

(sgd) D. Herrera J.  

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Commissioner of Mexico

(sgd) George H. Winters  

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Secretary of the United States Section

(sgd) Fernando Rivas S.  

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Secretary of the Mexican Section