

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

MINUTE NO. 282

Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua
March 26, 1990REHABILITATION OF THE SALINE WATERS DISPOSAL SYSTEM
FOR SOLUTION OF THE SALINITY PROBLEM IN THE WATERS
OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE

The Commission met in the offices of the Mexican Section in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua at 10:00 a.m., on March 26, 1990, to consider the need to rehabilitate the saline waters disposal system for solution of the salinity problem in the waters of the Lower Rio Grande, which consists basically of a diversion structure near the mouth of the El Morillo agricultural drain on the Rio Grande, a pumping plant and a 24-mile (38.93 Km) long bypass canal, located in Mexico, whose operation and maintenance is supervised by the International Boundary and Water Commission in accordance with Minutes No. 223 entitled "Measures for Solution of the Lower Rio Grande Salinity Problem", and No. 224 entitled "Recommendations Concerning the Lower Rio Grande Salinity Problem", dated November 30, 1965 and January 16, 1967, respectively.

The Commissioners made note that Resolution No. 9, Minute No. 223 stipulates: "The Commission shall make the necessary observations to determine whatever changes the conditions of the problem may undergo in the course of time and, if it considers it advisable to do so, recommend to the two Governments by means of a Minute, the measures it may be appropriate to take."

The Commission reviewed the report of Principal Engineers Jose S. Valdez of the United States Section and Luis Guzman del Castillo of the Mexican Section, entitled, "Report of the Principal Engineers Regarding the Need to Rehabilitate the Saline Waters Disposal System for Control of the Salinity Problem in the Waters of the Lower Rio Grande", dated March 22, 1990. The Commissioners noted the Principal Engineers' observations that the system has been in operation 21 years and needs to be rehabilitated. The Commissioners considered the Principal Engineers' recommendations for carrying out the rehabilitation of the system between 1989 and early 1991 in a manner that, 1) the rehabilitation costs are equally divided, between the United States and Mexico, 2) the share of those costs corresponding to the United States is transferred to Mexico in a timely manner, and 3) the rehabilitation is performed by the competent

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authorities in Mexico in three stages corresponding to periods of least impact risk to downstream Rio Grande water users in both countries. Finally, the Commission considered the Principal Engineers' recommendations regarding the measures that the Commission should adopt to avoid high salinity concentrations in the waters of the Rio Grande in temporary storage in the pool formed by Anzalduas Dam.

The Commissioners earlier observed a reduction in the efficiency of the system as a result of its deterioration and considered that after 21 years of operation, a rehabilitation of its fundamental components, made up of a diversion structure, the pumping plant and the Morillo Bypass Drain, is required. At the same time, the Commission believes it appropriate that the two Governments consider a program of operation and maintenance for this system under supervision of the Commission, taking into account reimbursements to Mexico from the United States, more frequent than the annual cumulative payment for costs incurred for those items.

The Commissioners, based on the above, agreed to submit the following resolutions for the approval of the two Governments:

1. That the report of Principal Engineers Jose S. Valdez of the United States Section and Luis Guzman del Castillo of the Mexican Section, entitled "Report of the Principal Engineers Regarding the Need to Rehabilitate the Saline Waters Disposal System for Control of the Salinity Problem in the Waters of the Lower Rio Grande", dated March 22, 1990, which with its Exhibits 1 and 2 forms a part of this Minute, be approved.
2. That consistent with the stipulations in Commission Minutes No. 223 entitled, "Measures for Solution of the Lower Rio Grande Salinity Problem", and No. 224 entitled "Recommendations Concerning the Lower Rio Grande Salinity Problem", dated November 30, 1965 and January 16, 1967, respectively, the Governments of the United States and Mexico jointly finance in equal parts the rehabilitation of the diversion structure, the pumping plant and Morillo Bypass Drain in accordance with Recommendations C and D of the referenced joint report of the Principal Engineers.

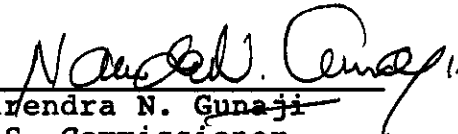
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3. That during the rehabilitation of the system the United States and Mexico, through the Commission, carry out the measures to avoid high salinity concentrations in the waters of the Rio Grande in temporary storage in the pool formed by Anzalduas Dam in accordance with Recommendation B of the Principal Engineers' joint report.
4. That the share of costs corresponding to the United States Government be transferred by the United States Section in accordance with Recommendation D, Point 5, subparagraphs a)-d) of the Principal Engineers' joint report.
5. That before completion of the rehabilitation of the system, the Commission recommend to the two Governments a program for its operation and maintenance under supervision of the Commission, taking into account reimbursements to Mexico from the United States, more frequent than the annual cumulative payment for costs incurred for those items.
6. That this Minute requires the specific approval of the two Governments.

The meeting was adjourned.


Narendra N. Gunaji
U.S. Commissioner


J. Arturo Herrera Solis
Interim Mexican Commissioner


Manuel R. Ybarra
U.S. Section Secretary


Jose de Jesus Luevano Grano
Acting Mexican Section Secretary