

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
American Positions	24	24	24	0
Funds	7,984	7,012	7,392	380

Program Description

The Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 (BWT) established the International Joint Commission (IJC) as a cornerstone of United States – Canada relations in the boundary region. The IJC has fine-tuned a successful model for preventing and resolving disputes that is unbiased, scientifically based, inclusive, and open to public input. Under the BWT, the IJC licenses and regulates uses, obstructions or, diversions of boundary waters in one country that affect water levels and flows on the other side of the boundary. The IJC provides advice to and conducts studies at the request of the United States and Canadian governments on critical issues of joint concern, and apports waters in transboundary river systems. The IJC also alerts the governments to emerging issues that might have negative impacts on the quality or quantity of boundary waters and brings to the attention of senior officials the latest developments in science, engineering and administration that could benefit the management, security or conservation of water-related natural resources. Other treaties, agreements, and conventions direct the IJC to assess progress in restoration of water quality in the Great Lakes, and, in specified transboundary basins, to respond quickly to emergency water level conditions, apportion flows, and approve diversions. The IJC also assists the governments in efforts to prevent transboundary air pollution and improve air quality.

Led by three commissioners from each country, the IJC operates through small section staffs in Washington, DC (U.S. funded) and Ottawa, Canada (Canadian funded) and a binational Great Lakes Regional Office in Windsor, Canada (jointly funded). Currently, 20 active boards and task forces, plus various related technical working groups and committees, provide expert advice on both science and policy issues. Approximately 300 professionals from within government agencies, universities, nonprofit agencies, and industry carry out this work in their personal and professional capacities and not as representatives of their respective organizations or countries.

The Boundary Waters Treaty gives the IJC the responsibility to approve applications for and oversee the operation of hydropower dams and other infrastructure projects in waters along the U.S.-Canadian border to suitably protect all interests from potential adverse effects of these projects. When the IJC approves such projects, a binational board typically is established to oversee construction and operation of the project. The board assures that treaty requirements are met and helps the IJC carry out its regulatory functions. As required, the IJC conducts studies to review the operational criteria for projects under IJC jurisdiction. In addition, the BWT provides that the U.S. and Canadian governments may refer questions or matters of difference to the IJC for examination and report. When such a “reference” is received, the IJC appoints an investigative board or task force for advice on the matters addressed in the reference. Since the establishment of the IJC, the two governments have requested, on more than 120 occasions, that the Commission review applications for projects affecting boundary waters and undertake studies, or “references,” on critical issues about which they disagree or on which they seek the advice of the IJC.

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Justification of Request

The FY 2013 request of \$7.4 million for the IJC reflects an increase of \$380,000 above the FY 2012 estimate. This funding provides \$41,000 for domestic inflation, \$69,000 for American COLA, and \$270,000 for the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River system management regime.

Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River system management (LOSLR) \$270,000

The IJC is working with the U.S. Government and the governments of Canada, New York, Ontario, and Quebec to develop a new approach for managing the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River system. It is anticipated that implementation will be ready to begin in FY 2013. The requested funds will enable the IJC to do its part in the implementation process.

Funds by Program Activity

(\$ in thousands)

Activities	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
Program Expenses	7,984	7,012	7,392	380
Special & Technical Investigations by U.S. Geological Survey	925	811	850	39
U.S. Section	7,059	6,201	6,542	341
Total	7,984	7,012	7,392	380

Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
1100 Personnel Compensation	2,351	2,066	2,177	111
1200 Personnel Benefits	513	451	476	25
2100 Travel & Trans of Persons	402	354	373	19
2300 Rents, Comm & Utilities	151	133	140	7
2400 Printing & Reproduction	16	15	15	0
2500 Other Services	4,501	3,949	4,165	216
2600 Supplies and Materials	44	39	41	2
3100 Personal Property	6	5	5	0
Total	7,984	7,012	7,392	380