

# INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

## *Resource Summary*

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 CR <sup>(1)</sup>	FY 2014 Request	Increase/Decrease From FY2012
Positions - Enduring	24	24	24	0
Enduring Funds	7,012	7,055	7,664	652

(1) The FY 2013 CR is based on the annualized continuing resolution calculation for FY 2013 (P.L. 112-175).

### *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 apportions 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, D.C. (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. During FY 2012, the IJC and its Boards completed 23 reports, with 91 percent of them being completed on time.

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.

## INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

### *Performance*

A critical element of the IJC's work is providing information and advice to the U.S. and Canadian governments and the public on the range of issues for which the IJC has responsibility. In order to be most useful, the reports and studies from the Commission and its Boards, in which such information and advice is contained, need to be based on the best scientific and technical information available and should be provided in as timely manner as possible. These reports and studies help ensure that the stakeholders in the basins and the governments have the most current information on which to base water management decisions. The indicator of performance just established measures the timeliness of completion of IJC reports and studies.

<b>Strategic Goal 3: Expand and sustain the ranks of prosperous, stable and democratic states by promoting effective, accountable, democratic governance; respect for human rights; sustainable, broad-based economic growth; and well-being</b>								
<b>Strategic Priority</b>		Environment/Climate Change						
<b>Active Performance Indicator</b>		NEW APP INDICATOR: Annual percentage of reports and studies completed according to an established timeline during the fiscal year.						
<b>Prior Year Results and Ratings</b>					<b>FY 2012</b>		<b>Planned Targets</b>	
<b>FY 2007</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Result and Rating</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Baseline	91% (Baseline)  New Indicator, No Rating	90%	90%
<b>Impact</b>		Baseline; N/A						
<b>Methodology</b>		Data will be determined by comparing the submission dates of reports and studies with the documented and negotiated timelines associated with them.						
<b>Data Source and Quality</b>		IJC records. The DQA revealed no significant data quality limitations.						

### *Justification of Request*

The FY 2014 Request of \$7.7 million for the IJC reflects an increase of \$652,000 above the FY 2012 Actual level. This funding provides \$487,000 for a Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study.

#### **Lake Champlain-Richelieu River Study \$487,000**

The U.S. and Canadian governments have asked the International Joint Commission to develop a Plan of Study to investigate the causes and impacts of flooding in the Lake Champlain-Richelieu River watershed, with emphasis on the record 2011 flooding, and make an evaluation of possible flood mitigation solutions. Initial planning indicates that the study could cost \$10-\$15 million over

## INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

approximately five years. With the cost split between the U.S. and Canada, the U.S. Section cost could be \$5-\$7.5 million over the life of the project. The U.S. Section requests \$487,000 in FY 2014 to initiate the study.

### *Funds by Object Class*

(\$ in thousands)

International Joint Commission (IJC)	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 CR	FY 2014 Request	Increase/Decrease From FY2012
1100 Personnel Compensation	2,056	2,177	2,238	182
1200 Personnel Benefits	445	476	496	51
2100 Travel & Trans of Persons	348	336	382	34
2300 Rents, Comm & Utilities	130	140	144	14
2400 Printing & Reproduction	11	15	15	4
2500 Other Services	3,984	3,865	4,342	358
2600 Supplies and Materials	34	41	42	8
3100 Personal Property	4	5	5	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,012</b>	<b>7,055</b>	<b>7,664</b>	<b>652</b>

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